

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: Adeline Naniolo, 66, former Del Monte Corporation
(California Packing Corporation) forelady

Adeline (Miguel) Naniolo was born in Nuuanu on June 17, 1913. She is three-fourths Hawaiian and one-fourth Portuguese. She was the fourth of six children. Her father was a stevedore, and her mother made and sold leis.

Adeline attended Maemae Elementary School through the fourth grade. Then she studied at Mid-Pacific Institute for three years, 1926-1928. She went to eighth and ninth grade at Kawananakoa Intermediate School, quitting in 1930 due to a lack of money.

Her first job was as a baby-sitter in 1926. In 1927, she worked one summer at Libby cannery on the jam table. Then for the next two years, she baby-sat again. She did not work again until 1933. That year, Adeline gave birth to a girl, and started seasonal packing at Libby's. She continued for four summers, but quit in 1936 to work as a maid in a prostitution house downtown. In 1938, she worked one summer as a Hawaiian Pine Company packer, but returned in 1940 to the red-light district as a maid, where she stayed through the war years.

In 1941, Adeline married Robert Naniolo, a stevedore. They have two hanai children. She worked at California Packing Corporation from about 1946 until 1965. The first ten years was as a seasonal packer, but in about 1956, she was promoted to intermittent forelady. She quit in order to care for her young grandchildren.

Adeline lived in Chinatown from 1936 to 1952, mostly on Maunakea Street. In 1952, she moved to Kaumakapili Lane [not now in existence; it was between the old Smith Street and Nuuanu Avenue, mauka of Beretania]. The Naniolos purchased a home in 1962 through the Hawaiian Home Lands Department after waiting for 16 years. Mr. Naniolo passed away in 1973.

Adeline is an active member of the Catholic church. She enjoys feather lei making in her spare time.

Tape No. 6-10-1-79
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
with
Adeline Naniolo (AN)
March 2, 1979
Papakolea, Oahu
BY: Vivien Lee (VL)

VL: This is an interview with Mrs. Adeline Naniolo. Today is March 2, 1979. We're at her home in Papakolea.

So maybe first you can just say when and where you were born, for the record.

AN: Okay. I was born at Nuuanu, Jack Lane, Pali Highway. I was born June 17, 1913.

VL: And what were your parents doing for work when you were young?

AN: My dad was a stevedore. He was a winchman and he used to work for 35 cents one hour.

VL: How about your mom?

AN: My mom, we were the old-time lei seller.

VL: Did she do that every day?

AN: Yeah, every day. Used to have all these ships that used to come in every day.

VL: Down at the piers?

AN: It's at the pier. Our pier used to be on Nimitz Highway. You know where the fire department is? You never been down that way?

VL: I don't remember.

AN: You know where the Kekaulike Street market is? Right down that road, it was pier all over there. Pier 15.
(We went to Piers 15-16 and 5-7.)

VL: Did you help your mom do that?

AN: Yeah.

VL: Can you describe how you helped her?

AN: Yes. In the morning, we used to walk up Pali Highway, the Old Pali Road. We go into the reservoir and get gingers, yellow gingers. We get up 4 o'clock in the morning and walk up the road. By the time we reach up there, just right, the sun coming up and we go right in the ginger patch and pick up all the gingers. We get out about 7:15, 7:20 before the rangers come in.

VL: This is private land?

AN: No, water reservation. It's still there today. You know where the water reservation is, that's where all the ginger patch, all in there.

VL: How old were you when you first started helping your mom?

AN: I was nine years old, all the way down till she died.

VL: She died in 1930?

AN: May the first, 1930.

VL: How many gingers would you pick or how much?

AN: We used to pick by bags and we pick all the buds before they open, they blossom. We pick it up and we bring it home. We get the sap out. You had to get the sap, all long stems. You know how you pick up the gingers, eh, then we had to make it all and then we put it in water and just ready to open.

VL: So you squeezed the sap out of the stem?

AN: We would just pinch it [part of the stem] off to sew it, cut it short and then we put it in water and then it opens up and we throw the water out and we start sewing.

VL: It's still in the morning you would sew?

AN: Yeah, well, after we rest, about 10 o'clock [a.m.] or 1 o'clock in the afternoon, then we sew it. Then we have it all ready. You know sometimes some steamers go out in the night, 8 o'clock [p.m.], 9 o'clock [p.m.]. Those foreign boats, we used to have the Niagara, the Sonoma, the Ventura, the Sierra, all those kind of boats.

VL: So you had your own place on the piers, nobody else could sell over there?

AN: No. Everybody (could sell). Those days [1920's and 1930's] never had so much lei sellers, you know. Just lately, before the war, then the lei sellers they all start going down there, you know.

Our day the lei sellers are from Makiki, Manoa, Nuuanu and Kalihi. Those days we only had about 20, 30 people, that's all. We go all around the pier. Don't have to (stand in one place). (Now) everybody stand by the market. You see when the piers used to be on Nimitz Highway and Kekaulike Street, all the passengers get off from the streetcar. Those days had streetcar, see, and then they walk down and the lei sellers there, they sell. You stand from corner to corner. They never had like this how everybody standing standing, never did. We were free to run around.

VL: How much would you sell each lei for?

AN: Well, those days, the carnation used to be 35 cents and then came up 50 cents.

VL: How about the gingers?

AN: The gingers were 25 cents one lei, four for a dollar [\$1.00] and we have it with the green maile but those days you can go up the mountain get more maile (but it's so far). You know these mahogany leaves on Kalakaua Avenue, you know those trees? That's what they call the haole maile. You remember those trees all along Kalakaua Avenue with the leaf, you don't remember passing there? There's a tree with all the leaves, those big trees right in the middle of the road. That partition both sides, it's still there till today. Bumbai when you walk, you take a look at it. We call that the haole maile. We pick it up and then we bring it home and then we tie it, put it around the ginger.

VL: Weren't you going to school?

AN: Oh, yes, I go to school in the morning and then I come home and then we go down. Maybe the boat going away 4 or 5 o'clock [p.m.] then I meet my mother at the pier and sell. Saturdays and sometimes Sundays, holidays, well we catch the streetcar, because they had streetcar. We have a little basket with all the flowers inside (Laughs) and go on the streetcar together.

VL: In your family, both your dad was working and your mom was working?

AN: Yes.

VL: Who took care of the money? Who handled the money?

AN: My mother. My mother handled the money. After that she took sick. When she took sick then we didn't. Yeah, she took sick then she died so we didn't go [sell leis].

VL: You had a pretty big family, didn't you?

AN: Yeah. No, in our family, my mother and my father...we had six but a brother died before me, see. I was number four.

VL: So was the income from your two parents working, was that...

AN: Yeah, yeah.

VL: ...adequate?

AN: Then afterwards, my dad didn't go to work. He had a fight (with his boss) where he didn't go to work all the time. We lived on selling leis, that's all we lived on. We never went to the welfare, never did. Every November, Christmas the (John) Waterhouse family brings food for Thanksgiving, or Christmas, too. Brings us food and gifts. They were really nice, those Waterhouse.

VL: The family your father had worked for...

AN: My grandfather, yeah.

VL: Oh, your grandfather?

AN: Uh huh. I still go to the Sunday school, you know. We have a little Sunday school at Wyllie Street and I talked to one of the [Waterhouse] daughters. She was Mrs. Wilcox. They're the Wilcox family on Kauai and she married the son (Charles Wilcox) and I told her why is it that they were so close to our family. They say it's because my grandfather was the one that babysit them, you know. That's why in return, that's why they had put us all in private schools, see, but...

VL: You had started off school at Kawananakoa then they paid you for your way at Mid-Pac [Mid-Pacific Institute].

AN: No, I was at Maemae School. I was in the fifth grade (1926) when I went to Mid-Pac (in mid-year).

VL: You were a little bit older, yeah? For the fifth grade you said you were 13?

AN: Yeah.

VL: A little bit older.

AN: Yeah, because I stayed back one year. You know those days school, you don't study, you stay back. They don't push you on. You have to....

VL: Then while you were still going to Mid-Pac in 1927, that was the first year you worked at Libby's, right?

AN: Yes.

VL: Why did you decide to work?

AN: Well, I need the money. You know, we so poor, eh, so I have to go to work. I want money, you know. Because those days you used to go work only 11 cents one hour.

VL: How did you decide to go to Libby's instead of another cannery?

AN: Well, because my friend was there. He was the superintendent and he was a good friend of my brother-in-law, Mr. Jimmy Ne.

VL: Jimmy Ne, he was superintendent of the...

AN: Of the Ginaca and jam table and his sister was a forelady, that's how I got in there. All those days they don't check up on your age as long as you tell 'em you 16, you so big--I was so big.

VL: You told 'em that you were 16?

AN: Yes. They don't look at it (Laughs).

See 1926 when I went in March (to Mid-Pac), summertime, I worked for one lieutenant. The school found us the job, \$25.00 a month just babysit, just take care the children, that's all. Then 1927 I decided to work so this Jimmy Ne's, sister, told my sister if I wanted to work, she willing to, you know, so that's how I went. [Ne's sister lived with AN's sister and brother-in-law.]

VL: Do you think that if you didn't know those people...

AN: You couldn't get in, you see. You know those days hard to get in, you know, for cannery unless they know you. If you lucky, well they pick you up.

VL: Did you fill out an application or something?

AN: Nothing, never fill, just went in and get your cap and everything. Just put down for your paycheck your number and everything, yeah. That's what I did was.

VL: So the same day you went down you started working?

AN: Yes, you were working right away because then I went on the night shift.

VL: Oh.

AN: Those days you work from 7 o'clock [p.m.] to 6 o'clock in the morning.

VL: Did they give you any kind of test or physical exam before you started?

AN: Nothing. They never do nothing, those days. Just now, lately, they do it.

VL: Did you have a choice about whether you could go to the jam table or a different job like trimming?

AN: No. They take me to the jam, I went to the jam.

VL: Do you remember how many tables they had that summer?

AN: That summer I think had 20 tables.

VL: I'd like if you could describe the work you did on the jam tables from the very start?

AN: You know the jam table is long. It [the belt] keeps going, you know, go down [the table with] all the jam inside.
["Jam" is pine scraped from the inside of the skin after the Ginaca peels the pineapple.]

VL: Where does it come from?

AN: It comes from the Ginaca machine.

VL: And what does it look like?

AN: It's all masy up. You know when you buy those in the can today, you see all the masy up kind? That's how it comes down and you gotta pick up the rubbish, you know, whatever comes out. When they come down you see all those little rubbish, brown rubbish, or eyes, like that, you pick it up and throw it inside.

See, two sides of the table, not only one. See, this is a long table where they have about 16 [workers]; maybe eight one side, eight one side and you have to [reach] because the table is kind of wide. The table is wider than my chair. The person is sitting there and you pick up all the rubbish and put it in.

VL: Is it [the table] about three feet wide?

AN: Yeah, yeah.

VL: With 16 of you?

AN: Yeah, eight the other side, eight the other side. Then we pick it up but, sometimes people they don't come work. The kids get sick (or they don't know how to do it), so you had to work harder. They don't hire some more because, next day, maybe two days, the following day they be coming back. You see, Del Monte had that too, you know. When I went to Del Monte [1946], I went to jam table too. It [the crushed pine] runs down from on top---the machine runs down and it comes right in [to the jam table]. See when they chop up the pine. It comes right in but today, they don't have it now. They (the Ginacas) trim, jam come out in that little table, about two girls, three girls, depend on how long the table to the machine and the [whole, trimmed] pine runs down to the trimming tables.

VL: But in those days, where did the pine go?

AN: You mean the pine go right in into the syrup department. I don't know how they do it.

VL: No, when you first started, did the crushed pine come from the Ginaca?

AN: Yeah.

VL: And then where did the good pine go? The whole pineapple that was finished coming out of the Ginaca machine.

AN: Well it goes on a trimming table. It comes right down to the trimming table.

VL: So it's like it's divided...

AN: Yeah, yeah.

VL: Part goes to jam and part goes to the trimmers?

AN: Yeah, yeah. That's how it is. [Each Ginaca had a belt to take the crushed pine to one long belt. This long belt delivered the crushed pine from all the Ginacas to the two jam tables.]

VL: And what are you picking it [the rubbish] out with?

AN: A pincher. It has a pincher. You know a pincher, it's cute thing like that, you know. Like how they pinch off the chickens. Grab the chickens (Laughs) from the....

VL: Is it made out of wood?

AN: No. It's made out of steel, you know. You know how they have these pinchers nowadays, that's how it is but it's a little smaller one see, about that long.

VL: Five inches or so?

AN: Yeah, yeah. You see, and then you just pick it. It's easy and they have a little string around it, see, to tie it at the end. I'm going to show you.

VL: Okay.

(Taping stops while AN goes to get pinchers.)

AN: You see, you have to hold it over here. You know, then tie a string here and then you hold it, you put it in here where the thing hooks because the thing won't fall off your hands.

VL: So there's a string around your wrist?

AN: Wrist, yeah. Then you pick it up, see. But it's not like this. The shape of this but it's bigger.

VL: How fast was it [the jam on the belt] going by you?

AN: Oh, not too fast, no, not too fast. Those days the machine was kind of slow. With the girl there, the girl here, so you had to push over the pile to find out where the dirt is, where the brown spots are. You cannot just pick it like that, you had to come all the time you had to make it [i.e. scoop and turn over the crushed pine with your left hand].

VL: Are you wearing gloves?

AN: Yeah, gloves, long gloves. We have long gloves then you push it here and pick it up, and push it here and (Laughs).

VL: Where did you put the rubbish?

AN: Right there. You have a little funnel right there. Just like everybody has their own, just like a little bucket.

VL: Right in your lap?

AN: No, it's all on the table. You know, it's all tied up on the table and you put it [the rubbish] down and it goes down with all the, what you call when [the Ginaca] cut up the pine, all the skins and everything. See, the mash on the top; the skins go underneath. And that's where it [the rubbish picked out from the jam] goes, catch the [belt with skins from the Ginaca] machine and just going down. Tables are all attached to the machine.

VL: Are you sitting down?

AN: Yeah, sitting down. If you're tired of sitting down, you stand up. Table are tall in order for you to reach the pine. Then you could sit down. I cannot sit down and work. I have to stand up. Even for trimming, too, I can....

VL: When you were a young girl, how did you feel about the work?

AN: Oh, can't help; it's really a hard job but you're so poor you had to work (Laughs), so hard. Gee, today kids are getting things in their hands, in their hands, free.

VL: Were you ever bored doing all this picking of rubbish?

AN: Yes. When first time, I was bored but afterwards we know each other we talk but not too much. Keep on working but today it's stricter. You can't talk, you can't do nothing, you just have to work and the machines are so fast now.

VL: What if in those days you missed some rubbish?

AN: Well, the next one [person] catch it.

VL: Is it better to be at the beginning of the table or at the end?

AN: Anywhere, makes no difference, makes no difference. I think I rather work between, better.

VL: Were you assigned a seat? How did you know where to go every day?

AN: [AN answers in terms of the trimming table rather than the jam table.] Well you assigned to your same seat. You have to go on your same seat but they rotate, see. Now, they rotate. You know what I mean, next day the second one come down and like that. For everybody have a chance because the first one, she has to try to hold up the pine, you know. You know, whatever she cannot [trim]. Anything she miss---gee today, anything you miss, the next one catch because she's doing her share.

VL: You're talking about the jam table?

AN: Ah, well, no. Well, [on the jam table] I think because we have so much, eh, everybody doing their share so not bad. But like the trimming [table], you have to work.

VL: I'll ask you about your trimming later.

AN: Yeah, yeah.

VL: Then did the jam table have it's own forelady?

AN: Yes.

VL: And what did she do?

AN: Oh, she comes in or unless the girl wants to go out, then she takes over the place. She comes in to help. But if the table has too much rubbish, she comes in, she helps too.

VL: That summer that you first worked, did you have a nice forelady?

AN: Oh, yeah, she's very nice, very nice. All the girls like her. She never rushes the girls. You know those days, they wasn't so strict, see, because they can't be so strict as long as the girls work because the pay was very little bit, you know.

VL: Was your pay the same as the other girls on the table?

AN: Everybody get the same pay; nobody get higher. Jam table. Jam is more like with the packers get paid. The trimmers the one get little bit more [pay].

VL: The other girls on your table, were they young like you?

AN: Yes. A few girls was only 12 [years old] but they were big. Had a girl, gee, she was taller than me. Gee, I think she was about 5 feet 8, I think, and she was young. She was only 12 years old and I was so surprised. Those days, they don't look for age as long you could work, you big. But since the government came in, child labor that's a.... I think 'cause the price was raised eh, I think maybe that's why they start getting strict.

VL: The price of...

AN: Yeah, the pay. Yeah, I think, that's what I thought. See look today if you 16, you cannot work where the machinery is, you know. That's why the kids are having hard time today no matter how tall they are. See, just like my grandson. He went to work last year. He had hard time. He couldn't work in the machinery department until he's 18. This year, he could because he's 18.

VL: So in your day there were a lot of young people like you?

AN: Yeah, yeah. A lot of young people was working those days. They were big and a little stouter. Those days you know how the kids they don't care how they look. Today the kids are all petite. (Laughs).

VL: What did you do with your earnings?

AN: I say I take it home and I give it to my parents.

VL: Did you save any for yourself?

AN: No, they didn't save no money. Every penny I get, I never open the envelope because then my mother took sick and then every penny went to her to buy us food, you know. We were very poor, very poor.

VL: Because your father had stopped working?

AN: Yeah, my father had stopped working and didn't work so then we had to live on this selling leis, you know. After that pau [i.e. after they quit selling leis], I didn't go work cannery until after my mother died. Then I stayed with my sister and my sister took care of us. Then I bring home my money when I used to work 1933. I went to Libby. I was packing again. I bring home my money and I give it to my sister. I give her my whole paycheck.

VL: Okay, I'll come back to that. Back to the first summer that you worked, 1927, did Libby's have a locker room?

AN: Yes, they had a locker room.

VL: Can you describe like when you first go to work, what you would do?

AN: When I first go to work, I go up to my locker room. Those days we have key. They don't have this kind of....today they have, what...

VL: Combination.

AN: ...yeah, combination. Those days, key. You have to have your key. Then put on my cap, my apron then we sit down till the bell rings, you know.

Because it's far from Nuuanu to Libby, you know, catch the street-car then we jump off by Kalihi Street and walk down to Libby or by Waiakamilo Road. You know Waiakamilo Road where we catch King Street bus and jump off there and walk down to Libby so I leave home 6 o'clock [p.m.].

VL: Who's "we"?

AN: Me and my friends, you know. I had a friend that leave same time with me but she died. We same age but she passed away when she was 51.

VL: So you two would go down together?

AN: Yeah, yeah, in the morning then we either get off Libby or we get off Kalihi Street and walk down right to Libby and we get there just in time, about 20 minutes before time. And then we sit down until the first whistle blow and then we go to the table and sit down wait for the second whistle.

VL: This is nighttime now, right?

AN: Yes, nighttime, uh huh.

VL: Would you take any food down?

AN: Oh, yes. Sometimes I make a lunch. Sometimes, we go to the cafeteria, you know.

VL: When would your lunch break be?

AN: Our lunch break is 11:30 [p.m.] until 12:00. Half an hour. That's all they have lunch, only half an hour and you gotta eat fast you know, standing in line. Sometimes I don't want to go because by the time the line, you know. Sometimes there's cheap food where you pay only about 25 cents and there's food where you pick up 10 cents in dessert like that. And this food you only pay 25 cents for one thing, maybe stew with rice, shrimp with long rice like that.

VL: Did you have a rest break between or before your lunch break?

AN: Oh, yeah. You want to go out, all right, but you gotta go out only ten minutes, you know. You cannot stay over ten minutes. You have to come back.

VL: What if you did?

AN: Well, the forelady come in looking for you. (Laughs)

VL: Then would you have a rest break after your lunch break?

AN: Yes, we have one after your lunch. One hour after the lunch then you could ask the forelady if you can leave the table. She lets you go but then you get ten minutes break.

VL: But this is not everybody getting a break at the same time?

AN: No, no. The first one goes then the next one wants to go until that person come back then the next one go.

VL: So starting from one hour after lunch then you can start going out?

AN: Yeah, yeah, uh huh.

VL: It's quite a long time between 12 o'clock [midnight] and 7 o'clock in the morning.

AN: Uh huh. If it's necessary, you know, something, well you could ask the forelady that she let's you go. She let's you go. They have nice foreladies, very nice foreladies.

VL: How come you didn't go back the next summer? You only worked that one summer, yeah?

AN: I didn't go back the next summer because my mother took sick so she was down at the country with my grandfather, with her dad, so I went with her. Then I went to work as a babysitter for some vice president for the Inter-Island (Steamship Co.), Mr. McKenzie. I went babysit right close, where I could come home and see her all the time. So that's why I didn't go back. So I worked there until my mother passed away.

VL: That year that she passed away [1930] was also your last year for school?

AN: Yeah, uh huh.

VL: Did you want to go to more schooling?

AN: Yeah, I like to go more schooling but we were so poor we couldn't even pay the books. I left Kawanakoa because there was no money to pay the books. I was a ninth grader and I couldn't go back to school. Even my brother---my brother was one of them, too. He went to McKinley. He was a junior and he couldn't because there's no money. After my mother died, my sister took care of us. That's why she's always with us till today. She's 73. We all think about her. We go up and get her and my brother.

VL: There was three years after your mother died that you didn't work at the cannery. Were you working elsewhere?

AN: No, I didn't go work. No, I didn't work all that time. I stayed home because I took sick in 1931. I had typhoid. We all had typhoid. Oh, was very epidemic up our place. We had to be all under the doctor.

VL: That was Depression years too. Did that affect you folks?

AN: Oh, even Depression year, it didn't affect us.

VL: You were poor anyway.

AN: Yeah we were poor anyway so we didn't care. As long as we have food in our stomach, that's all.

VL: So it was your sister supporting you then?

AN: Yes, my sister and brother-in-law.

VL: Then in 1933 your daughter was born?

AN: Yes.

VL: That was the year you started working at Libby's again?

AN: Yes. My sister babysit my daughter.

VL: How come you decided to go back to work again?

AN: I have to get some money, eh. I can't live on my boyfriend's check for my daughter. I wanted to educate her. I saved all that money for her and what money I had, I give it to my sister. She don't take it, you know. That's why she and I today, we're like that [close]. When her husband died, I took care her kids. I watched all her children. I babysit 'em because I met my husband and I was with my husband at the time, see. So I worked for...

VL: Four summers.

AN: Yeah.

VL: How did you get that job? Could you just go back and say...

AN: Yeah because I worked every year so we are there. When I go back, I register, I could get the job. You see, I don't have no hassle.

VL: How about getting it the first time?

AN: You mean the first time?

VL: No, I mean 1933.

AN: Oh, because they looked up my record. They told me, "Oh, okay." They just signed me up and as soon as they were ready, they call me up. They don't call me up, they send me a letter for me to come in the office; that cannery start in the morning and they want me to come in and get the gloves and everything.

VL: What were your hours like?

AN: Well, you see, when we used to work---sometimes depends, the pine. Sometimes we work four hours, five hours.

VL: Even season time?

AN: No, no, before season time. But after season time [starts] oh, boy, good hours. Sometimes we work for about two months. We work about from 7 o'clock [p.m.] until 6 o'clock in the morning. See, we always work from 7 o'clock [p.m.]. We (almost) never get through 5:30 [a.m.]. See there's always pine there for the night shift to work in the evening. The day shift would get off earlier to leave pineapple for the night shift to get through, see (if the night shift workers had been told the previous day that there would be work the next night).

You see, when there's more pine, everybody gets back to back and then they get off. We had to be there 7 o'clock [p.m.]. Six o'clock [p.m.] they get off and then we go in, see.

VL: Did they stop the machines in between the shifts?

AN: No, the machines keep on going. We just get right in.

VL: So you just slip right in?

AN: Slip in, yeah, everybody gotta be right there when the time. When the whistle blow, everybody right there. They just jump off, we take over.

VL: And then after season, then you didn't work very much?

AN: No, I didn't work because Libby, I was just working for just season time.

VL: Would you rather have worked all year around?

AN: Oh, yeah. Well, only thing I was satisfied (Laughs). I made all that money so (Laughs)...

VL: But then you didn't have any money the rest of the year?

AN: Yeah, didn't have any money the rest of the year but I stayed with my sister. I didn't go....I'm not the type to go here, go there, you know. See like today, wow, everybody like money, today.

VL: Now this time you were a packer [1933-1936]?

AN: Yeah, I was.

VL: How did you get to be a packer? Did you choose that?

AN: No. They grabbed the girls from the jam table, you see, the old-timers to go on the packing. That's how I went to the packing. They took about 14 girls from the jam table. The ones that worked on the jam table, they took them to the packing table. Then you learn, you know. When I went on the packing table, I went at the end. I didn't know how to pack, so I grab all the leftover, you know, all in broken pieces. You know, they broken up. Then I look for the good ones and I just put them in the can and weigh em. You know, how many pounds. You know they had a weigher, so from there on, then they started in taking us up to teach us how to pack and....

VL: So the first time you went [to the packing table], they placed you at the end?

AN: Yeah, at the end.

VL: Can you describe the whole packing process from the time the sliced pine comes down. Who picks it up first?

AN: The first packer. She picks up the best [slices], see. She just drop [the ends off] and she takes the middle and put in for the first [fancy] pine. They have a...

VL: She takes the ends off?

AN: Yeah. She grabs all the ends off and the next one.... Well, had just like about....six girls from when it comes out of the [slicing] machine. Then they pack because it comes out pretty fast, you know, and they have to get [the good slices] and whatever she grab, the next one [pine cylinder] goes down, the next one [packer] catch it, like that till at the end all the little slices just flat on the table then we [at the end of the table] take over.

VL: So the first six are the fancy [packers]?

AN: Yeah, fancies [grade one]. And then next, the...

VL: But wait. The fancies take what part of the pineapple?

AN: In the middle, yeah.

VL: Just the middle.

AN: And sometimes the pine comes out; sometimes it just has grade two because all the rest is, you know....Depends like the smaller, little ones, they all come in like that. They all close together. Yeah then each one of those [first] six have to catch all their

pine and the next ones pack number 2 [i.e. grade two] pine. And then the end is...

VL: Chunks?

AN: Not chunks, over there broken half [slices]. You know, sometimes they so ripe, broke in half. You know, if too much ripe pine, the first packer couldn't catch it, they let it go down. They let it go down, the next one take over and put it all in the can. They have about four girls at the end to catch the leftover [i.e. the broken halves].

VL: About how many in the middle to catch the second grade?

AN: Second grade, oh, about four. On the packing table, there about 10, 14 girls. [Six on fancy, four on choice, four on B's.] See because they have the fancy, the first, the second, the third, the fourth, the fifth [girls]. We [at the end of the table] all catch over the rubbish, you know. Well, if it's not good, you just let it go down. See, but like Libby, they don't check up on the pineapples, see. Hawaiian Pine is strict, you know. You cannot fool around.

VL: Libby's never had inspection?

AN: No, never had inspection. Gee, when I went to Hawaiian Pine, Hawaiian Pine strict. I never go packing but I went trimming. Even the trimming---you trim fast, they know; but they don't know who's the one that's chopping. They come for the forelady. They get after the forelady, see. Somebody is chopping the pine here and...

VL: Libby's didn't do that?

AN: No.

VL: So how could they tell if you were doing the right thing or not?

AN: Well, the forelady did. They look at you; they inspect the can. This forelady goes from one girl right down the row, you know. She can see whether you were picking the right pine or not. If you miss, they just take it off. They say, "Well you have put different pine in this." They let you know. Some forelady are nice; some terrible.

VL: You think the broken pieces packing was the easiest?

AN: Yeah. The broken pieces packing was the easiest, no need worry because it's (Laughs) a good one [i.e. the job is good]. But to me, I think I'd rather have trimming. Trimming the best. That's how I came forelady, you know. We were on the contracting table.

VL: Yeah, on packing did they have any kind of incentive to make you go faster?

AN: Of course. They do.

VL: How did they...

AN: They watch and say, "You know you're not working. You're not working right. There's a pine going down." They know whether you picking up your pine or not.

VL: But did they pay you more if you worked faster?

AN: Not unless you go on a contracting table then they pay.

VL: And when could you go on a contracting table?

AN: Unless you good packer but they look at you how fast you pack and then they put you on the contracting table then they know how many trays going out.

VL: If you're fast would they put you with the other fast people to pack?

AN: Yeah, yeah.

VL: And how were you paid that way?

AN: Oh, you paid 5 cents more, 5 cents more.

VL: Per hour?

AN: Yes. But I didn't care much for packing. That's why when I went Del Monte, I went on the trimming. I rather have trimming.

VL: Did you ever pack the fancy or the second grade?

AN: No, I didn't go in that. I wouldn't learn. I told them, "No, I'm going to stay down that broken pieces line."

They say, "You want to go up"?

I say, "No, no, I'm satisfied here where I am." (Laughs)
(Libby's did not rotate workers on the packing table.)

VL: Would they have paid you more?

AN: No. At the end? No, the same.

VL: The fancy is the same as...

AN: Yeah, yeah 13 cents. [AN is probably referring to her first job at Libby's in 1927.] You know from 11 cents came up to 13 cents. Gee, those days, plenty money, you know. Seventeen [\$17.00], eighteen dollars [\$18.00] a week, plenty money. Rich. Today you get more money, good for nothing. The tax takes it all. [AN later said that in 1933 she was making about 25 cents an hour; in

1934 it was raised to 30 cents. They worked up to eight hours a day, five days a week; very seldom they worked on Saturdays.]

VL: Yeah. What didn't you like about packing?

AN: You mean, what, I don't want packing?

VL: Yeah, why didn't you like packing?

AN: I didn't care for packing. I didn't know about the pine, that's why, you know.

VL: What do you mean you didn't know?

AN: To me the pine all look the same (Laughs). I don't know what's fancy and what's number 1 grade and number 2 grade. To me, they all look the same.

VL: They didn't tell you what to look for?

AN: Yeah, they tell. I look, I look, I still can't make a go with it. I say, "Oh, no." I get all worried up when I go in there. I don't know whether I picking the right pine or not. That's why I didn't want to pack. That's why I never cared for packing, see. Even when I went to Hawaiian Pine, I didn't go on the packing but I went on chunk line. You know the chunk, all chunk. You know they have these chunk in the can, well they have a table for that and you just pick up the pine [chunks] and they're really clean. You just pick the pine and put it in the can and weigh it. Everybody has, you know...

VL: Their own scale?

AN: Everybody has their own scale. I pick it up and oh, the pine was so nice and then we see how many pound. We had to put one ounce. I don't know how many pound it had, one pound or what, one ounce or something. But it's small little can.

VL: Isn't that the same thing you were doing at Libby's?

AN: You mean, no, no, [at Libby's] it's not chunk. [It was] packing and you know slices are cut off and we have to pick the good ones and just put em inside. See chunks are little thicker than slices. Hawaiian Pine had that but I don't know till today. I don't know whether they had it.

VL: Didn't that [packing chunks] require judgment too, though, that you had to know what was good to put in?

AN: Yeah, but to me, that chunk line was really, really clean. There were no spots on the pine. I think it was kind of special, you know.

VL: You liked that better than...

AN: The packing. Well that one I like because [makes motion of packing quickly] (Laughs).

VL: Just pack all the chunks?

AN: Yeah, yeah, just put it all inside. Oh, that pine. Gee, even I told the forelady and she said that this is special. Because the back machine they have boys. The boys pick up all the....and just the clean ones going inside the big table and that's how we pick up that poundage. Every girl has a little pound [i.e. scale] to pick up and put it inside.

VL: When you were at Libby's, you also had to weigh?

AN: No, don't have to weigh. Just put it inside. I think it's more like a extra can, maybe third or fourth fruits, you know. Even I go in now, I say, "Gee, I see this kind of pine. When you open, it's all there." I say, "Gee, that reminds me, that's what I was doing for the packing table." I never know they have that, too.

VL: The crushed?

AN: Not the crushed, just the pineapple, all those halves from the packing. You know when it all break up, by the time it come to the three girls [who are packing B's], the last at the end, it's all half but it's still good. It may be that it's too ripe, it falls down so we put it all in the can.

VL: This is the Libby's one?

AN: Yeah, Libby's one. Then when I went to Hawaiian Pine, I went in there for packing but they put me on the chunk line but I only work one summer for that [chunk] pack line, that's all.

VL: When you went back to work at Libby's in 1933, did you notice any changes from 1927?

AN: Nineteen twenty-seven to nineteen thirty-three?

VL: Yes.

AN: It was still the same, never change, still the same. The same thing.

VL: Now, okay, so when it was off season you didn't work so did you stay at home?

AN: I stayed at home.

VL: Took care of your daughter?

AN: Yeah I took care of my daughter.

VL: And then you quit after four summers?

AN: Yes, I quit.

VL: How come you quit?

AN: After four summers, I met my husband in 1936. (He felt that I didn't need to work because he was working and I had only one child.)

[Telephone rings. Taping stops, then resumes.]

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

VL: So we were talking about why you quit pine.

AN: No, I didn't go back, you see. I didn't go back again [for a fifth summer] so then I moved out. I stayed with my aunt. Because just to have my brother-in-law and my sister, you know, because they were having....my brother-in-law was having, I don't know, he was giving my sister bad time.

VL: So you moved?

AN: Yeah, I moved out of the house, so I stayed with my aunt. While I stayed with my aunt--and my aunt used to be a cook--and just happened they need [a maid] so I was 24 years [old] so my aunt told me if I want to go to work, you know. That's how I went.

VL: She was a cook at...

AN: Rex Room. Yeah, that's a room, prostitute house. She was a cook in there.

VL: That's the name of it?

AN: Yeah, used to be right at the corner of Pauahi and Smith and right below there, right next to this Rex Room, was Wing Coffee Company, making coffee, right next so they [Rex Room] just took part of it and the other rest was [Wing Coffee]. And then afterwards, the Wing Coffee moved across Pauahi Street. It's still there till today, you know. And then they [Rex Room] took over the whole. And then they had a kitchen downstairs. They made a kitchen. The girls [prostitutes] used to sleep downstairs and the business was upstairs.

VL: They actually lived there?

AN: Yeah, those days you can't go out. You cannot go out. You have to have permission unless when you have your menses, then you off for about six days.

VL: About how many girls did this place have?

AN: Ten girls. I was thinking, I told my boss, "Why is it these [police officials] are coming in? You know I open the door they're coming up."

I tell the madam, "The [police officials] are coming upstairs."

She says, "Just open the door and bring them in the room." Her parlor.

Then after she explain to me. She said, "They're coming in to get their cut." She had to give out \$300.00 every month; in order you get more business, you gotta give more. In order to hold your business....

VL: So they have the ten girls plus the madam and the cook, and were you the only maid?

AN: No, two maids. We had two maid's doors because they have local and front. See, the local [customers] come through the back [door] and the white come through the front. I take care the local but when the other maid was sick, I had to go in. They had to hire another maid to take care the door and they want me to clean, take the other maid's place to clean up the.... So I had to come in the morning. So in the morning, the maid cleans up and even take care the two doors but lucky thing it's open.

Then this policemen coming in. The say, "Oh, your madam..."

I say, "Oh, the madam sleeping."

He say, "Well, all right, just tell her that [police officials] came, you know."

And I was thinking, gee, when the madam got up, I told her, "Oh, [a police official] came and he wants you to call him up." Then I said, "Why they come in here all the time?"

She said, "They come in here to collect their...."

VL: What were you paid as a maid?

AN: Oh! Ten dollars [\$10.00] a week.

VL: Was that good?

AN: Oh, it was good. I need the money so....

VL: Was that more than you could make at the cannery for about the same...

AN: No, the cannery just \$7.00 more, that's all. Seventeen dollars [\$17.00] a week, 13 cents a hour, depends on how long, how many hours you work. [Again, AN seems to be referring to her 1927 experience instead of 1933-1936 when she was making about 30 cents an hour.]

VL: So actually this maid job was less.

AN: But it's steady. You get it every week; every week you get paid, every Friday you get paid, you know.

Then another....when I quit [Rex Room], then they called me because my madam gave up the place, you see. She was tired so she gave up. She sold it to another, you know, the ones who working. I think they have a lot of money so she sell her business out to her then she become a madam. See, the girl that makes a lot of money, you see. Then she becomes a madam. Then I quit. I got tired. I told them, "No, I'm tired." Because you gotta work from 10 o'clock [p.m.] to 2, 3 o'clock [a.m.] in the morning. Gotta wait, you know. Everybody comes in about 10, 11 o'clock at night, you see.

VL: Then were you answering doors?

AN: Yeah, gotta answer door. They cannot come in. If they drunk, I shut the door. I won't let them come in. They're just a humbug. And my friend next door (i.e. taking care of the front door), she's got two men in the front, you know. When the white mens comes in all drunk, she went and said, "I'm sorry."

He say, "Why, why not?"

She says, "Well, I don't think you can make business." (Laughs)

Some of them swear at you, you know. I say, "Well, thank you." (Laughs)

VL: So when you answer the door do you handle any money or anything?

AN: No, no, we don't handle any money. The girls check up with the madam. That's all we do. Just watch, put the man's in, see they don't get nasty to the girls. Maybe they over, they supposed to be in the room for only ten minutes and if over that, we have to knock at the door, make sure that the girl is okay. She say, "Okay." Sometimes they have hard case too, you know. Sometime the guys are really nasty. Then we have to call the madam. Then she goes in there and

VL: So you had quite a bit to do.

AN: Yeah. Well, those days, things (i.e., the pay) were cheap. Then after I left, then, I was working from one place or another place. They need a maid, they call. You know, they like experienced maid that knows. You don't have to tell them what to do. I worked at Senator. I worked at....I forgot, the one right on Maunakea, right at....the Service. And I work at Palace.

VL: Are these all...

AN: They're all on Maunakea Street, you know, all the red-light house were all right on Maunakea and Pauahi, right around the corner.

VL: These are all prostitution houses?

AN: Yeah. And that lady was a big.... After she sold out her [prostitution] business, she went [into the restaurant business]. Senator, she owns the Senator Hotel. She owns the Bronx too.

Around the corner, River Street, a Japanese woman took over, work for her, you know. She took over and then that was wartime then I was called, she called me if I wanted to work wartime. I went to work 1942 [at the Bronx]. It was good business, good money. The money was terrific. You didn't have to pay tax. The money was so big. We used to get \$25.00 a week. We get paid every week \$25.00. If I have three, four girls I take care, every day I come home with \$20.00 tip.

VL: Tip?

AN: Yeah. And those girls who worked from 6 o'clock [a.m.] in the morning until 1 o'clock [p.m.]. The girls get off at 1 o'clock wartime.

VL: Oh, 1 o'clock [p.m.] in the afternoon?

AN: Yeah. Twelve o'clock, as long they get hundred tricks they get out. You know, hundred tricks and they only take white man, \$3.00.

VL: A hundred in a day?

AN: Yeah. For only that half a day. Some take on 125. (Some men stayed only one or two minutes.) The money! And if the girl is smart, that's why all these girls at wartime the one that keep the money, don't spend, they way ahead today, all got business and everything today, you know. I used to get bonus, end of the month. Every maid, we had 30 maids who worked in that Bronx.

VL: That was a big place.

AN: It's a big place. We have about I think almost 25 girls, all girls. We had six Japanese girls. We had two Puerto Rican girls and five Hawaiian girls, part-Hawaiian and the rest, white girls. And we have bonus; every maid has \$200.00 something. Every month they give the bonus out to all the maids. By 2 o'clock [p.m.] we have to, what you call, get everything all ready in the room. Everything all gone but they have the maids that comes in and clean up.

VL: Clean the room?

AN: We don't clean nothing. (During the war we did clean up, but prior to that we didn't have to.) The maids do it. They have a housemaid that take over. See, they have, I think, about 10 housemaids.

VL: What kind of maid were you?

AN: I'm a maid for take care the girls. I just come in to take care the girls when they go on business, eh. They go with the men. That's all I am, all us, and there's another 10 maids. After the girls get out, the maids come in and clean up. Clean up...

VL: How do you take care of the girls? What is your job?

AN: Well, my job is, the men line up and then they want this girl or what girl. They line up and I just call the girl come out. I just tell them which girl they want and, you know.

VL: So your job didn't involve cleaning or anything?

AN: No, no. Didn't have to clean or anything.

VL: Good money.

AN: Yeah, was really good money. That's why I had a friend--she was a local girl, Chinese-Hawaiian--and she was in that business. She had a home right down here. She owned a cottage right on Wilder Avenue. Do you remember they had a high house there with about four little cottage. She owned that. She bought that place for only \$25,000.00 while she was in business, wartime. She sold it out for \$75,000.00 and she bought another place and today, what happened. She end up, she got nothing. You know why, after the business was over, she went to Japan and worked for the Air Force. I think some white man scooped all her money. You see when you young, you big time; today she's old. She was working Japan for the Air Force, operator. She stayed in Japan 30 years. She no more nothing. Now, she's old but she has good money. She retired good money. She had some money saved up but wasn't much. I told her, "Where all your money?" You see, those days was big and high and mighty, you know...

VL: Did you save your money when you worked wartime?

AN: Oh, yeah, oh, yeah. I had my husband that time. I was with my husband and he was working stevedore. That's why we was going buy a place. We was going to buy a place but, you know, everything came up but we didn't go out to look for a place. All my life I stayed 25 years in Chinatown. I raised all my children there.

VL: What were you telling me about Maunakea Street? That's where you lived?

AN: Yeah, in the back of Roosevelt Theatre. I lived 14 years

VL: You were close to your work?

AN: Yeah, I lived 14 years there, then I moved across where the Kukui Tower is. You know the Kukui Tower? You see where those tree is, it's right in there, that's where I lived, right there. I was among Orientals, only. I raised my children all in town. They all went to private school and everything so I was going to buy a place then they sent me...because I filed for this place in 1947...

VL: Hawaiian Homes.

AN: Hawaiian Homes. And I say, "Oh " because our place was condemned within two years and they sent me. I said, "We don't have to buy a place, we could come right up here." And we here today and this month I'll be 17 years here. I own this home. I don't owe nothing to the Hawaiian Homestead land.

VL: So that money that you earned in the wartime helped you to buy this house?

AN: Yeah, yeah, buy this house. That's how I got this home. Because I got money in the bank. I don't owe....everything I got for was all paid for. They check up on your, what you call, your accounts and everything to see if you can afford. When I moved here, I had to fix up this house, uh huh.

VL: Did you stop being a maid because the war was pau and not so much business?

AN: Yeah. Then I went to work Del Monte [1946] so I stayed there till I quit [1965].

VL: How come you switched again? This was your third different pine company?

AN: Yeah. (Laughs) I want to look all other pineapples. See, how the pineapples look, what cannery, how they work, you see. But I rather have Del Monte because my brother works Hawaiian Pine. He just retired. Physical disability. He was a high-lift operator.

VL: Why would you rather work Del Monte?

AN: I like Del Monte. They not so strict like Hawaiian Pine. Hawaiian Pine is strict, very strict. Del Monte is real good. As long as you work, they don't bother you. Foreman are nice, foreladies are nice, you know.

VL: Did you have any trouble getting that job?

AN: Where?

VL: CPC [Del Monte].

AN: No, when I went there, I was hired right away. I never wait. Just come in line and they pick up all the girls. "You, you, you."

VL: How did they choose you over somebody else?

AN: No, they just go all around. See like the ones who had worked in the cannery, that's the one they pick up first. Then the new ones come in the back. When they need them, then they pick the new ones then they gotta train them, you know. See, as long you have experience, you come first, you know. Even you work any other cannery, they tell where I work. We tell 'em too far. We don't want to go there, you know. So that's how we come here. Once you work, you get in fast. They know you already know. They don't have to teach you or anything.

That's why my girls never did work in the cannery because they were allergy and they couldn't. My nieces worked with me. My son worked with me. He came in. I got him in. He was a tray boy for the packers.

VL: How about comparing CPC with Libby's.

AN: Libby. This thing they worked the same, same way. Libby and CPC worked the same, same way. Only Hawaiian Pine is different. Hawaiian Pine....because you know they only have pineapple in order to....Del Monte and CPC they have this can stuff, you know. If they can't make money on the pineapple, they make money on their canned goods. See, Del Monte the same thing. Like Hawaiian Pine, they only live on pine. That's why their pine has to be so and so. They're so strict. One little error and they could lose out their....Well like today different. They having the fresh fruits. They making money on the fresh fruits.

VL: Did you think when you started at CPC that you were going to work there for a long time?

AN: Yeah, and I did stay there for a long time until my grandchildren came into this world. My oldest daughter went to work so my husband told me he didn't want the children to go out and for me to take care and my daughter paid me, almost \$100.00 a month for the two children. I took care all of them.

VL: When you first started at CPC, what job did you do?

AN: When I first started CPC, I went in as a jam, jam. One summer, two summers I worked jam then the third summer they told me if I wanted to work trimming and I said, "Yes, I like to go to trimming" because I had trimmed at Hawaiian Pine. So told them yes. So I stayed on the trimming. I worked trimming when small little pine, you know sugar pine, you know you trim it small. But the sugar pine they don't have much girls. Only about four on the sugar pine. They're small and they're clean and the machines run slow, you see.

Then from there, trimming, then they told me, "You want to work on the big pine?"

I said, "Yeah, I like to get on the big pine." The big pine is easier than the half size pine, cause they're heavy.

So she says, "You want to go on the contracting table?" They have two contracting table.

I said, "Yeah." I went there. I worked on that contracting table...

VL: The fast one?

AN: ...yeah, the fast one. That's where you can make good money, you know, 20 cents more (per hour) on the contracting table so I worked there. That's where they picked me up for forelady, see.

VL: How long were you working on that contracting table?

AN: One year. One summer, you know, whole summer then they picked me up for....

VL: Did you have special tricks on trimming?

AN: Yeah, the trimming. You know the pine heavy, you know. Oh, the arm. I think that's why I had bursitis on my arm. I had calcium. I went operate my arm 1973.

VL: How did you trim?

AN: You hold the pine this way, just trim, just go in the pine, the knife. The knife had to be sharp. Just trim just turn it up, bang, throw it in and bang, going, going, going, going, going (Laughs).

VL: Did you put your thumb in the hole?

AN: Yes, we put your thumb in the hole and then you just turn it around [i.e. turn the pine cylinder so that thumb is in the other end of the pine], when you pau. Sometimes the skin come out, you just go. As long that knife is sharp, it's terrific. We always

have special knife for that table. Then the foreman is standing up and looking. And you know, the pineapple come, you gotta catch fast. You see if the first three are fast trimmer, at the end, hardly get a pine. Then they rotate then afterwards they start rotating for give chance for the you know...

VL: For the first...

AN: Yeah, we have to rotate every every half an hour.

VL: Which position would you rather have had?

AN: Any one. Either the first or the last. The last you hardly do anything. If you sleepy....because everybody catching the pine on the....like to go on the first. Coming out of the machine, bang, bang.

VL: Is there a lot of pressure?

VL: No, once you used to, it's nothing. Once you get used to it. Just like the packers. When they so used to, it's nothing to them, you know.

VL: You said contracting table you had special knife?

AN: Yeah, special knife.

VL: Different from the other trimmers?

AN: No, the knife is same but gotta be sharp. That knife had to be sharp all the time, you know.

VL: How do you get it sharpened?

AN: The boys. The boys sharp. They always bring their knives there. Every half an hour they bring a new knife for the girls and it has the pincher there, you know. You know sometimes have eyes, sometimes just little brown dots, you have to pinch it off.

VL: How did you feel at the end of the day (after doing a whole day of trimming)?

AN: Tiresome, yeah, in the shoulder. I think that's why I had this here, you see?

VL: Bumps [on fingers]?

AN: If you have trimming, yeah, I used to have it here but it went down. Whew, was big and I thought was maybe some kind of growth. I went to the doctor. The doctor told me, "No, it's arthritis." Even this, told me it's arthritis. You see here, this cannot go down. It's arthritis he told me.

VL: You say that's from pineapple...

AN: Pineapple. I think trimming. I think that's what I think. Even I told the doctor, "I think this is from trimming."

He said, "Well, could be." Maybe that's why it affected my shoulders. I had calcium. Oh boy, pain. First I had it here. Then it went here and this one stayed so long until my arm got pain so it couldn't move.

VL: While you were trimming did you feel this...

AN: Yeah. I could feel it.

VL: What did you do?

AN: I just have to make, you know, just like that [shrug shoulders once in a while]. Make my back as long as pain, you know. That's why he told me, "Well that could be." I think that's why I had calcium in my arms. So I had to be operated on. I couldn't stay put, I couldn't. That night I was rushed to St. Francis Hospital, call my doctor and I rushed there.

VL: Were you still working?

AN: No. I think after when I had relaxed, then these things start working on me. I say, oh, maybe could be the cause of....

VL: While you were working, did you have any accidents or injuries?

AN: No, nothing. Never had. I never had no accidents or anything in that cannery for that years I worked CPC. I never go to the dispensary or anything. That's why I say, "Gee, just think that I worked in the cannery, everything, I never did go to the dispensary or got sick or anything." And these kids today, they in the dispensary or they sick (Laughs). You never work in the cannery too? You never did? Oh.

END OF INTERVIEW

Tape No. 6-34-2-79
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Adeline Naniolo (AN)

March 27, 1979

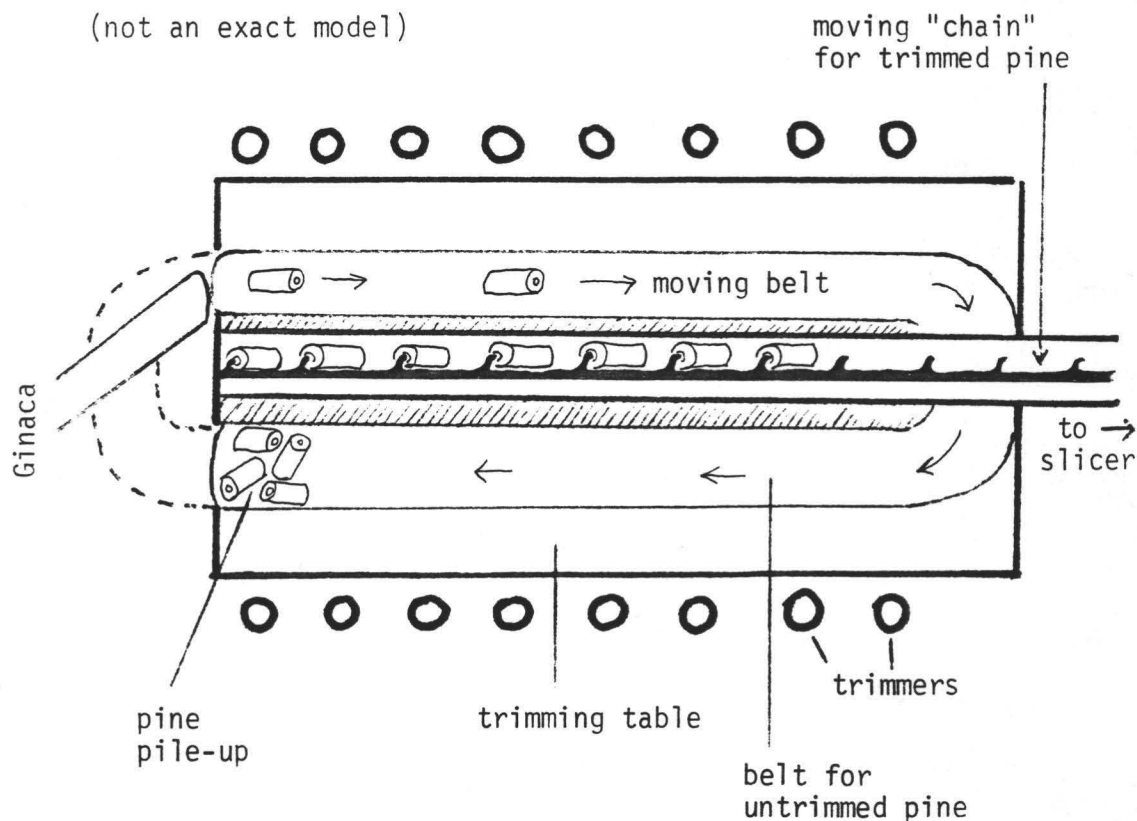
Papakolea, Oahu

BY: Vivien Lee (VL)

VL: This is an interview with Mrs. Adeline Naniolo. Today is March 27, 1979. We're at her home in Papakolea.

Okay. At the end of the last interview, we were just starting to talk about how you used to trim at CPC [California Packing Corporation]. So, can you kind of describe for me from the very beginning, the whole trimming process? This is when you first started there in the 1940's before you became forelady. Can you start from when the pine comes out of the Ginaca?

(not an exact model)



AN: When the pines come out of the Ginaca, most time we have eight girls on the first row [i.e., on one side of the table] when it comes out from the Ginaca, and about seven girls across the table, you know. And then, when the pine comes out, everybody had to pick [up] their pines, see? When you [at the head of the table] pick [up] the pine, the girls at the end [of the table] couldn't get much pine. If you let the pine go, the girls at the end have to work harder. If they slow, all jam up. They have to stop the machine.

VL: Did this happen when you were working there?

AN: Oh, yeah. It always happen when you work there.

VL: The machines would actually---you'd have to stop them?

AN: Yeah, stop them when it's all the---both sides of the table, see? If the people across from you doesn't work fast, that pineapple just go down. No matter how fast you work, you can't upkeep. The people that works from the machine when the pine comes out, they have to keep on going.

VL: The first ones?

AN: Yeah, the first one, the second one, at least the fourth one. They catch their pine, or not, most time, the pine are just going down. They just picking one pine, and about two, three pines going down the row.

VL: Now, if this pine is not trimmed and it comes to the last woman on the table, where does it go if she doesn't pick it up?

AN: Well, it's just stuck there. It doesn't go down. It all just pile up. She have to put it all on the side.

VL: Oh, on the side of her?

AN: Yeah, they on the side of her. Just pile 'em up there. If the one first from the Ginaca [i.e., the workers nearest to the Ginaca], if they don't have--the pine all coming down--we just throw 'em over, and it goes back again. (Laughs)

VL: What do you mean? You throw it over where?

AN: Give it to them when they don't have pine--the first [workers]--because that's their pine that coming down. They not picking it up. We just grab the pine and just put it over [onto their side of the table] because the pine goes around. [See diagram.] Our cannery, it's old-fashioned. It's not like Hawaiian Pine. You see, Hawaiian Pine, it just goes, come. Everybody have to pick it up. Hawaiian Pine, you don't fool around. You got to be a fast trimmer. You don't be a fast trimmer, you get out.

VL: How is CPC different?

AN: CPC is old-fashioned. It goes around. It takes time for the people to trim.

VL: You don't mean the pine is going in a circle?

AN: No, it doesn't. No. It just stop. It doesn't come in [a circle] because it coming out from the Ginaca. It just go. It goes all around under the---when you trim the pine good, the pine goes into the packer, eh? Well, it goes around, see? And then, when there's too much, they grab it all, and they put it over [onto the other side of the trimming table]. Everybody have to help. That's how it goes.

VL: Would you be able to draw that? Because I can't quite see what it looks like.

AN: Yeah. All right. This is where the pine comes out.

VL: From the Ginaca?

AN: Yeah. From the Ginaca, the pine comes all down, then it goes around. See, they have a belt.

VL: The belt actually makes a circle?

AN: Yeah, makes a circle. Yeah.

VL: And then, where does it go?

AN: It goes way down. Well, it goes underneath again, come up on the other side [of the table]. You see, it goes underneath, and then, it comes up again. You know, just like that thing goes around, and around, and around.

VL: So you mean, if you don't catch the pine, it'll eventually come up around to you again?

AN: No. It comes around, and it stops here [at the end of the belt], so we have to pick it all up and put it on the side. Maybe the four last [trimmers] have to try to hold the pine. You know, no let the pine go down. Oh, it just go down and stop because they have the belt, see? It's a long belt. The belt just go around, and around. Another belt--where it comes down from the [Ginaca] machine--it's a different belt. That one just go under, and it meets the [other] belt that comes around [the trimming table]. You know, how you trim. Now you understand that?

VL: Yeah. So tell me where the table is.

AN: All right. This is the table. And there's another belt that comes from the Ginaca. It just drop off [the pine] on this belt, and it

goes under, come back again on the Ginaca. You know what I mean? They not all connect together.

(Taping stops, then resumes.)

VL: Okay. So just to make it clear, we have this one belt coming from the Ginaca which goes to the first trimmer on one side only. Then another belt goes all the way around to the ladies on the other side [of the table].

AN: Yeah. Everybody pick up their pine.

VL: Right. So then, the last lady, she has to put the pine on the side.

AN: Yeah. Maybe sometimes, she have three, four pine coming down.

VL: So then, she would give it to the ladies on the opposite side?

AN: Other side, yeah. They haven't any, so she just throw it over.

VL: Throws it onto their belt?

AN: Uh huh, uh huh [yes].

VL: Now, the trimmings, you just drop it right onto the belt when you're trimming?

AN: [AN answers in terms of what she did with the trimmed pine.] After you get through? You just throw it. They have a little belt there with just like a chain. Each chain has a [space]---for the pineapple to put in. You have to put all, one after another, the faster you trim, don't let one [space] go empty---you have to fill it all together. All go down the chute to go into the packer. You see, it's just like a chain--those big chain--and it goes in the slicer. Then it cuts off [i.e., slices the pine], and then it goes all straight down to the packing table. It cuts off, and each packer have to pick up their pine.

VL: Now, the trimmings--the shavings--what do you do with those?

AN: It just go right in--I told you--it goes with the skin and all. They have it all same thing. All in this big trough--skin, and the shaving, and everything--in the same thing. All goes down in the same belt. When you trim, it doesn't go on the belt. You have a table. It's a opening. There's another belt under [the table] that just go in the trough. You just push it down. You know what I mean?

VL: An opening in the table?

AN: Yeah, yeah. Open table. All open, and you just push it down. That belt [under the table], it just meet the trough. It goes

right to the trough. They go under, they come back again, and it goes meet the trough. The other one on top, it just goes around. That belt [on top] is just for the pineapple to go down to the packing. So we have that thing [opening in the table]; we have to push it down. That's why I said, the shaving, and the skins, and all; the machine doesn't cut off all the skin.

VL: So, there's sort of like three different moving belts?

AN: Yeah, yeah.

VL: One for the untrimmed pine, one for the trimmed pine, one for rubbish.

AN: Yeah, one for rubbish.

VL: This method where the pine goes all the way around [the table]---you worked trimming at Hawaiian Pine before, yeah?

AN: Yeah, uh huh.

VL: Which method did you think was better?

AN: I think Hawaiian Pine get the best method.

VL: Why is that better than this [CPC] method?

AN: You know why? You don't work hard. Everybody have to pick their pine. See, the pine come out---five girls this side [of the table], six girls here. Six pines this side, five pine this side. You got to know how to trim. You don't know how to trim, that's where they catch the people that not trimming. It's not right. Like CPC, they old-fashioned. I think, sometimes, five or six are working harder, then the other ones are not working harder. That's not right. I rather have the Hawaiian Pine one.

VL: Hawaiian Pine is more equal. Everybody have to work hard.

AN: Yeah, everybody equal. Everybody have to work hard. They have to pick up their pine. See how fast you could trim.

VL: But on this--the CPC method--which ones had to be the fastest? Which girls?

AN: Well, the ones have to be across [on the opposite side of the table from the side where the pines first come out]. But they change, you know? Every hour, you move. CPC, so nobody work hard. Every one hour, you move---not one hour, every half an hour, you move.

VL: Who's working the hardest? The first girls?

AN: To me, some are more lazy. To me, the last girls the one work hard. The one almost close to going down--the pineapple--that's

the one work harder. But you see, sometimes they get lazy ones, too. There's lot get lazy. New girls come in. Well, the new girls, you cannot help because they trying to learn. Some really like, some no. They just don't care, and they think it's too hard. They just say, "Well, we going to the bathroom." They go to the bathroom. We didn't find 'em. We go in the bathroom, look; they gone home. They don't tell her [forelady] that they want to go home. Today, kids are terrible. They say worse now. That's what one forelady told me.

VL: Back then when you rotated, how would you rotate?

AN: All right. If I'm last, half an hour, then I come over. Then I be the first. And the first move to the second. That's how it is.

VL: Does the machine stop while you do this?

AN: No, no. The machine keep on going. It doesn't stop for you.

VL: It means you have to run all the way around the table?

AN: Yeah, yeah. We not afraid. We so used to it, we don't bother. When we come back, nobody, you know? Like these contracting tables, that's all expert trimmers. That's where they pick up the foreladies, see? I was on the contracting table for five years, and big pine [2-1/2 size]. Nobody can work on big pine. I think that's why I hurt my shoulder, too. You know, I had operation on calcium; had filled up in my shoulder. You see, contracting table, they don't put new girls on it. It's just old-timers goes on the contracting table. [Trimmers on the contracting table got paid 20 cents more per hour because they were fast.]

VL: This one that we're talking about now is a regular table?

AN: Yeah, it's a regular table.

VL: Did they tell you how to hold and trim the pine?

AN: Yeah, yeah. They do.

VL: How did they want you to trim it?

AN: You see, when you grab the pine, you grab the pine like this, with your thumb [in the hole]. And then, you trim it. CPC, they don't care how you trim. As long you don't trim thick and everything. But Hawaiian Pine, no, they strict. When there's a eye, you just have to make the eye [i.e., pick out only the eye]. You know, just have to trim just the thin of the eye. Even you trim just a little thicker part, they get after you.

VL: But CPC is not like that?

AN: No, no. CPC is not like that. CPC is not like that. CPC is the easier cannery to work that.

VL: Did they have rules for how many times you can turn the pine?

AN: No. They never. CPC, as long I was there, they never tell you how many time you turn the pine.

VL: Or how about whether you should stroke this way, or a different way? On the direction of your stroke?

AN: You trim as long you could trim. You know what I mean? When you grab the pine, you just trim like that, and you turn the pine over, you keep on trimming. You just turn the pine over. They never tell you, "Oh, you trim here, you trim there." No. As long I was there, they never bother. Until today, they told me. I say, "There any changing in CPC?"

They say, "Still the same. Nothing change."

I say, "How the machines?"

"Still there, the same machines."

Well, like Hawaiian Pine, they got to make something good, everything, too.

VL: At CPC, would the forelady check---how would she know how thick you were trimming?

AN: She just goes around and look. Well, if she sees--she goes around look--she sees, she looks at this girl. She say, "Oh, don't trim too thick."

And the girl know it. She say, "Okay."

She [forelady] say, "Well, if you think you trimmed too thick, just shove it down the [chute]...." You know what I mean. Don't let it stay like that because the foreman will come around and see.

VL: The forelady told you that?

AN: Yeah. She say if you think you trimming too thick, to throw---well, that's when I first worked. But afterwards, they don't bother you. After you are a well trimmer, they don't bother you. They know already [that] you know. We don't trim too, you know. For first time, eh, you cannot help. The girl get all nervous when the pineapple going down, and they think, shee, they not picking the pine. Like Hawaiian Pine, they train the girls before they go into. Now, you going get in. They train you for six weeks. Within six weeks, you supposed to know how to trim the pine. CPC, no. They just tell you, like that. If you are a new worker, they put you on a smaller pine. See, smaller pine is better. But to me, smaller pine is more hard. Too much pineapple [i.e., more pines to trim].

VL: Would you trim a different way?

AN: No, same thing. Everything same way.

VL: Same way? No matter what size...

AN: No matter what size the pine is. Same way.

VL: On this trimming table, did you ever have any arguments?

AN: Oh, of course. You get arguments. Shee, because you watching the girls. They not picking up the pines. You know, let it go down.

VL: Is it because they're lazy, or...

AN: Well, they tell you, "Why don't you pick your pine up? Look all these pine coming down." The forelady get all shook up. Girls have argument, too. Especially the Hawaiian girls, oh, they terrible. But they fool around me, I let 'em have it too. Yeah.

VL: What do you mean? How do you "let 'em have it?"

AN: I let 'em have it. I say, "I know I'm picking my pine. I don't have five hands." I say, "Nothing could beat the machine. I don't care how fast you work." Still, you cannot beat the machine. No matter how fast you work, I tell you. And they know that. Even the foremen, they don't know how to trim too. What the hell they telling everybody trim? One time I had an argument with one foreman. I walked out, but the big foreman came and get me. I was forelady. Was for small pine. So, I told him, "As long the girls are working, what more you want them to do?" I say even themselves [the foremen], they go in to help, they cannot even trim themselves.

VL: Did this foreman want you to make them go faster?

AN: Yeah. I said they going as fast they could, and so much pine. When plenty pine, the pine just stick together. The Ginaca---when the boy puts the pine in one after another, sure, the pine all come down. Then, sometimes the pine are dirty. Lot of dots, everything. The girls get all nervous when the foreman around. They trying to pick---you have a pincher on the knife, and you pick up the....

VL: The eyes?

AN: Yeah. I say, "Well, they doing their best---I know they working hard. What more can you do?" Of course, the foreman just walk away. One foreman was kind of cocky. I say, "Well, you get on top there." I told 'em. (Chuckles) I told 'em, "You get up there and help the trimmers." He cannot even trim nothing. He's trimming only one pine, and about 10 pine coming down.

VL: You mean, he trimmed? He tried?

AN: Yeah, he tried to trim. He let it go. He didn't bother no more. He didn't bother us no more.

VL: How come he was trimming?

AN: Because some foremen get---they think [there is] too much, so they get in to help trim, too. Yeah. Because if the pine dirty, the machines get all stuck up. So much pine, all the table just packed. The other side is packed.

VL: Can't they slow it down?

AN: No, they won't slow it down. There is too much. If the tables are full with pineapple, then they close the machine. When they close the machine, that's bad. That's bad. That's just like a mark for that table. Just like the girls are not working hard.

VL: A mark?

AN: Yeah, a mark. A mark for a forelady and a mark for that table. Just like the girls are not working hard. They think the girls are not working hard on the table, and it's bad for the forelady, too. It's a mark for the forelady. Since I became forelady, our table never did.

VL: Get a mark.

AN: Yeah, never did get a mark. I had really good girls because I don't hustle them. You know, get after them or any---I just tell, "You folks work. As long you work, try your best to work up the pine." And they really good. But when you get nasty to the girls, they don't give a damn. Let it go, you the one going to catch hell--the forelady going to catch hell. So, you have to be nice to the girls. I think I was a good forelady. All the girls always want to--when they come back--want to run on my tables because they don't want go other tables. But poor things, sometimes they [other foreladies] run short of girls so they come on our table and take girls. They say, "Oh, we going to take some of your good trimmers on another---because the table is all backed up and everything."

The girls say, "Oh, we coming back tomorrow?"

You say, "Yeah, you could go back to your table tomorrow." You say, "Just go help out."

VL: Okay, I'll ask you all about foreladies afterwards, plus this getting a mark thing, I'll ask you that when I get to forelady. But going back to before you were a forelady, did you have your own knife? As a trimmer?

AN: No. They bring the box of knife, and you pick up your knife. They put the knife all on the table. From each chair, they leave it

there. You just come in, the knives are there already. The knife boy put it on the table.

VL: During your lunch break, would you mark your knife in any way?

AN: No. Nothing.

VL: You just leave it there?

AN: Just leave it there. Just leave it there and go to your table [i.e., come back to your same table after lunch]. Nobody takes your knife. Everybody out--as soon they leave it there--they go out, and everybody sit down (in the hallway near the office to eat lunch. There was a cafeteria, but it was faster to just bring home lunch and eat it in the hallway.) Within five minutes [of starting time], we come back to the table. The first whistle blow, we come back to the table. Sometimes, well, five minutes [before starting time] we walk in, sit on the table and relax. The knives are all still there. Because nobody say they own this knife, they own their knife, no. All the knives the same. Yeah, it's all the same.

VL: Were they stainless steel?

AN: Yeah, stainless steel. Funny, yeah, sometimes, it couldn't cut a pine. The knife is kind of dull. Shee, but I say you cut your hand, it just---sharp. It just cuts your finger. There's lot of girls had knife trouble on their finger. You know, thing goes through the glove. How they cut the thing. New girls.

VL: That didn't happen to you, though?

AN: No, I didn't have no cut on my hands.

VL: What if your hand got tired? What could you do?

AN: Oh, your hand? You ask the forelady if you could go out or you go to the dispensary, and they have this gauze. They wrap it up on your finger. They just rub it with some kind of liniment--oil, and then you go in there. Sometimes, the muscles, just like stiff. But me, my hand didn't bother me because I come home, I put 'em in Hawaiian salt water.

VL: Every day?

AN: Hot. Yeah, every, I come home, put. Then, after I gets it out of the water--for 10, 15 minutes--then I massage my hand, my fingers. The only thing that bothered me was my shoulder.

VL: Did somebody tell you to do that?

AN: Yeah, my parents. Long time ago, my grandparents. Hawaiian salt is really good. I'm telling you, if you have strep throat, you get

Hawaiian salt with warm water--half a teaspoon in a glass of warm water--and you gargle your throat for three days. I never go to the doctor when I had strep throat, only the salt--Hawaiian salt. I just gargle my throat. When you have strep throat, you couldn't sleep. Oh, I know when it's coming up, I just go and I start it before it....it never got me. Even I'm putting it on my grandchildren, too.

VL: Did other cannery ladies do that same thing?

AN: Ah, no. Some, they say, they put liniment. But only the Hawaiians that does that [soak in salt water]. All the Hawaiians we know, they learn from their---they say, "Eh, how come your finger---sure your finger doesn't hurt you?"

I said, "No."

Say, "How come? Shee, ours just like so tight, our hand just like that."

I said, "Eh, you Hawaiian. What, you don't learn? Your parents don't tell you anything, your grandma?"

"No."

I say, "Go home, put 'em in Hawaiian salt--warm water--and let 'em there for 15 [minutes]---you like longer, better. After you get it out, wipe it out, and then just lomilomi the hand." Hawaiian call "lomilomi." That's massage. (Laughs) Numb your fingers, everything okay. First time I worked Hawaiian Pine, they picked me up for trimming. Oh, the hand can hardly....then I went home. My dad was still living. He told me, "You put your hand in the...." So, I put everything, then I massage it. Oh, within two days, all gone. Just like nothing. Just like I was used to the pineapple already.

VL: How about people who were not Hawaiian? Say, the Japanese, did they do anything?

AN: Oh, no. But Japanese, little better. Japanese, they have their own medicine, I think. The Japanese, they say they have their own medicine, too, for their fingers. Yeah, that's what this old lady told me.

VL: Do you know what it was?

AN: I don't know. What they call that? Tokokon, or something like that. They put 'em.

VL: Oh, Tokuhon?

AN: Yeah, yeah. That's what they do. They have the bigger one and they wrap it all around their fingers, and all that medicine goes

into the bones, and everything, the muscles. That's what this Japanese lady told me. And one time I did, too, for my back. I went and get it, and I put it on my back. Oh, really good, just like the heat goes into.

VL: Do you think that most trimmers did something like that to their hands afterwards?

AN: No, they didn't. Nobody. They just stayed like that. Some have to go to the doctor. Some can't work. Some quit, they cannot take it. You see, they can't.

VL: Did you trim the pine---you held it up in the air?

AN: Yeah. You know why? You not supposed to trim your pine like this. You got to do like this.

"correct"



"incorrect"



VL: Sideways?

AN: Yeah, sideways, to trim the pine. Yeah.

VL: Could you rest your hand on the table?

AN: Oh, yeah. Well, no. No, you cannot. You have to hold it up. If the boss catch you, he goes for you. Some people does. Because it's so heavy, they put it (Laughs) down like that [resting hand on table] and roll the pine.

VL: But you're not supposed to do that?

AN: No, you're not supposed to do that. Now, the big pine is heavier now. Oh, some people say they cannot even work on the big pine. Big pine is too heavy. So now, I think they're trimming the pine little thicker. And the machine, when come out, then come out---not too big.

VL: Cleaner?

AN: Yeah. He said, "The kids today, they cannot take the big pine now." They [the company] have to put just old-timer people there. They don't put the girls, the young girls. So they getting the boys trimming. They giving the boys for trimming.

Even the boys, said, "Shee, hard job." (Laughs) One CPC told me the boys are trimming now.

I said, "I think that's where the boys supposed to be--trimming. Let the girls pack, the boys trim." He said they have boys trim now. That's what they say, and some boys cannot take 'em.

They say, oh, even their hand, they get big hand, "Sore." They go home.

Oh, they say, last summer. I say, "No wonder I saw in the paper, they were calling for workingmen."

Now they say they having more of this---from Vietnam? Vietnam, they having the Filipinos, too. Poor things. Even though hard job, but they work because they need the money. That's the only way. When you need the money, you get no complaint. When the kids just going in there and fool around--they don't need the money--just quit. They ain't working, they said.

VL: Well, your day, was it that people need the money?

AN: Yeah. My day, I needed---we came from a poor family. Very poor. You can't afford to have money because money just for food. You know, cannot. So we need little things, and we go to work even though it's hard work. But we need the money, that's why we stick on it, too. Today, kids, they get everything. They no need work today.

VL: At CPC, when you first started, what would you say is the hardest part about trimming?

AN: The hardest part is when you first work for trimming. That's the hardest part. After you know, it's not hard at all. It's nothing hard at all.

VL: Did you do it without thinking?

AN: No. Just like if you do any job you know, then it doesn't bother you. Just going in there and trim, that's all.

VL: Could you think about something else while you were trimming?

AN: No, I don't. There's no time for think of anything. Just think of---I don't want the table be all jam up. That's the thing I

worry. I don't like tables get all....even we a trimmer, not a forelady, I don't like the table to be stacked up. You know, all the pine come. You work more harder, and my back was aching, too. I don't know what we had...

VL: Even your early days?

AN: You mean, the back? Yeah, from the early days till....for 30 years, I had my---and I just went under [surgery]. Calcium was all in my bone until I couldn't lift my arm. But already I left [the cannery]. It was aching all the time, and the doctor said, "Shee." He didn't know how I could stand that all the time. Can't sleep, too. You cannot sleep. You don't know what way to sleep. Just like to have your shoulder with the pain. I just operated about five years now--1973--but I didn't work. Nineteen sixty-five, I left there [CPC]. I stayed home to take care my grandchildren.

VL: On this trimming table, how did you know where to sit at the beginning of the day?

AN: You just take a table. You just go where you want to sit down. First time you go--first time you on that table--you come back, you sit on the same chair because they're going to rotate. See, maybe I was on this chair today. All right, we rotate every half an hour. I was still on the chair---maybe I'm on the number four chair before the last ending. When I go next day, I got to take the next chair to me. That's how it goes.

VL: So you always remember where to go?

AN: Yeah, where to go. Yeah, uh huh.

VL: So you were working with the same ladies every day?

AN: Yeah, same ladies every day. When they change us--maybe there's other tables that haven't much girls, so the head forelady come and pick one girl or two girls--then we go to that table. The next day, we come back to our same table.

VL: When you go to another table, do you know those ladies?

AN: Oh, yeah. We know. They're all-year workers, that's why. We know everybody in there. Every morning we see the same faces. Not for season. You know what I mean? After the summer is over, we work, sometimes, four or five days. The same girls come back in. Season is different. Some girls come back, some don't. Every year you get different girls come in, but for the intermittents, we all there. Everybody know. Sometimes we have about 10, 12 tables because they only have 14 tables in CPC.

VL: At the most?

AN: Yeah, uh huh. With the jam table. But now, they say they don't have no jam table now. No more big jam table now. Everybody working jam on the Ginaca. You know, there's a little tray there [next to the Ginaca], and the jam all comes out. The pineapple all comes out, and they picking up, and then they shove it down into the jam table. Before, we used to have two big long [jam] tables. (Before, the jam was transported by belts from each Ginaca to the two long jam tables.) Now, no more. They said they took 'em away because they don't have much money on jam. So they use the small tables (one next to each Ginaca). Seventeen, 17 tables, that's all CPC---they never...

VL: Even season?

AN: Season. Only 17 tables were...

VL: So, you knew most of the intermittents? This was when you were an intermittent worker [1956-1965].

AN: Yeah. Yeah, uh huh.

VL: How about when you were just a seasonal [1946-1956]?

AN: Seasonal? Same. I know the intermittents that work with the seasonals. Intermittents that go with the young girls, they have plenty there. But nearly most all of the intermittents now, because they're all our age today, most retired. Most of them died while they were still working there. They died. They said, I think, only about 25 more of all the intermittents [that were there in AN's time are still there]. That's what I talked to this forelady. She told me she's retiring next year. She be 62.

VL: That's today, you're talking about?

AN: Yeah, yeah. I asked her, "Did they change?"

"Nothing change. Still the same old thing. Never change."

I said, "Oh, CPC, old-fashioned."

VL: So, when you were seasonal [1946-1956], how long was the season?

AN: Shee, seasonal, sometimes seasonal ends about in August, sometimes in September. Depend on the pine. Sometimes, it's July, the end of July. Season all over.

VL: And when did it start?

AN: Then, they let go all the school kids, and they keep the other ones that, you know. If they want to work, they let 'em until they go back to school. But those who want to get out, they get them out first. Some want to get out in July.

VL: Who did they know to let off first?

AN: They go and ask.

VL: Oh, they just ask who wants to?

AN: Yeah, they ask, "Who wants to be laid off first?" Those who want to get out first, they let it go. Then, the next one, what month they want to get out. Then they let them know. Sometimes, good season. You know, for the kids. Sometimes, they working in September. Sometimes, very poor. Sometimes, only two months, they start laying off. Second month.

VL: Did that system always work out? Because what if you didn't want to be laid off, but they didn't need you.

AN: Yeah, well, got to be laid off, that's all.

VL: If you had been a seasonal for five years, would they give you a choice?

AN: Oh, they'd give you a choice. They give you a choice for that. Uh huh [yes]. They give you a choice for that.

VL: So, the more seasons you work...

AN: Yeah, you stay longer. Uh huh. You see, you're the last one to get out. Maybe you going to college, you going to university, all right, your school don't start in, and you want to work. They let you go--every year, the same thing--they let you go, you're the last one to get out. All the university kids, they're the last ones gets out.

VL: What about you? You were seasonal for quite a few years before you made intermittent.

AN: Oh, I'm the last one, too. Until no more pine. Only [pine] for intermittents. Then I get out. I be the last one to get out.

VL: Because you're the longest seasonal?

AN: Yeah, yeah. Longest seasonal worker. I'm the last one to get out.

VL: Were there others like you?

AN: Yeah, plenty. They got plenty. Then, bumbai, well, you go every year, then they pick you up for forelady. They picked me up for forelady---I was seasonal, my last seasonal [year]. I was on the contracting table all the time. Then the head foreman came around. I didn't know that. I don't fool around [with] foremen. My job, as soon I get in there, I work. As soon pau, I'm out. I don't fool around in there, sitting around there and looking around. I

want to get out of this factory. That's how I was. (Laughs)
Bang! Even for going to work, I leave home because I live in town.
I live among Chinese people. I was living in Maunakea Street in
the back of Roosevelt Theater. Fourteen years. I leave home 6:30
[a.m.] or 25 to 7 [6:35]. Only take me 10 minutes walk to the
cannery.

VL: This is night shift start?

AN: Yeah, even night shift, too. I was working night shift. I like
the night shift. You work from 3 o'clock [p.m.] to 11. Always
working from 3 to 11. I had the kids. I adopted two. Then, I
took 3 [o'clock] shift. Because my husband gets through 4 o'clock,
and I had my brother home. Then he [husband] take care [of the
kids]. Well, when they were big already--they were going to school--
then I started to work. I took the steady [i.e., intermittent work
in approximately 1957]. That's why. I take the 3 [o'clock] shift
because they go to Catholic school.

VL: This is at CPC?

AN: Yeah, CPC. Uh huh. CPC, 1948.

VL: They would just be coming home when you would leave?

AN: Yeah. I have another---my uncle lives there, too. He's disability.
He's young, he's about 50-some---well, he died. He passed away.
He'd take care of them until my husband comes home. That's why
they never wander out on the street. The only time they go out is
when I'm home. Then I take them to the park. You know that Beretania
park where the parking lot is? It's a park before. Then I sit
there, I crochet while they out for one hour, sometimes two hours.
They get tired and they tell me they want to go home. That's why
the people say, "You tell me why they call that slum district?"
But those days, it was beautiful. Today, it's---I went back there
and see. It's terrible.

VL: You were working CPC and you worked night shift?

AN: Yeah, 3 [o'clock p.m.] to 11.

VL: This is as a seasonal?

AN: Seasonal, yeah.

VL: Now, you were talking about how they made you forelady. But they
made you intermittent first?

AN: No. Before I became intermittent, one season, they picked me up.

VL: For forelady?

AN: For forelady. You see. After that was over, they told me if I wanted to be intermittent--if I want to work when the seasonal over--I say, "Okay. Might as well. All the kids going out, so I go work and earn that extra money."

VL: Who decided to make you forelady, then?

AN: The head foreman. Mr. Lane. He died. He passed away already. That's our head foreman. (United States Congressman Daniel Akaka and Department of Education Superintendent Charles Clark used to be seasonal foremen at CPC in the late 1950's.)

VL: You were saying you never knew them, or you never talked to them, so how do you think he picked you?

AN: Maybe he know I had worked hard. I told my head forelady, "How come they pick me?" You know, everybody talking to him. He goes around and he's a man. He don't bother nobody unless you talk to him. Then you ask him something, then pau. He's always independent. He the one that picks the foreladies. He said, "Because you work hard." That's why. He knows. He said, "Well, I'm going to pick Adeline up for our forelady, for seasonal forelady." Then she told me what I wanted, to work morning shift or night shift.

I said, "No, I think I rather take the night shift. I rather take the 3-11 shift." I say, "Because I could be home with the kids in the morning. Get them ready for school, get their breakfast." Like some people, working, the kids are not eating. Go to school. That's why they get tired because there's no more food in their stomachs.

VL: When he made you forelady, did your pay go up?

AN: Yeah. I was having 75 cents an hour as a forelady. Then, I worked each year, well, they get the union, it raise, raise, raise. Foreladies getting almost \$5-something one hour now today. The cannery. Shee, I think, "Ho, just to think. We used to work 11 cents one hour." (Laughs) When I tell my kids that, they laugh.

You know, my two girls never did work in the cannery because they were allergic. The hand gets all sore. My boy worked in the cannery. He was a tray boy. I brought him. He's the only one of the kids work in the cannery---tray boy. Oh, he laughs. He said, "Shee, I got lot of money."

I said, "You kids lucky today because you folks get---look, before Mama used to work 11 cents one hour." But plenty money--\$16, \$17 [a week]--we used to work 10 hours, 12 hours [a day]. Was plenty money, those days. Five cents, crack seed. One big package, you cannot even eat all the crack seed. Even the seeds, looking at all the seeds today, hardly anything in the package, for how much? Thirty cents. Maybe someday the time will come back again like that, eh? You think so?

VL: No (Laughs), I don't think so. When you working seasonal, what did you do off-season?

AN: Nothing. Off-season, I don't do anything. I just stay home. Well, intermittents, too. Sometimes they work until September, October. Pau. They don't work until next year. They call that the winter pine.

VL: You didn't make any money then?

AN: No. We have compensation. You go down. Maybe you're supposed to work a full week. I don't know how much a full week you're supposed to get. Then, when we don't work, we get \$18. They count how much. Eighteen dollars a week compensation.

VL: This is while you were seasonal?

AN: For seasonal? Well, seasonal, not much. It's the intermittents, the one.

VL: So, as seasonal, you didn't get compensation?

AN: No. So, I didn't get no compensation for seasonal. But intermittent, I did.

VL: While you were a seasonal and it was not season, how did you folks manage?

AN: You see, my husband works. He work stevedore. You know, good money. So, I stays home. I take care the kids.

VL: So, your finances were okay even though...

AN: Yeah, okay even though. Even if I went to work now, I don't need the money. I just want to go to work. And extra money for the kids. You know what I mean.

VL: Back then when you were seasonal, you felt that way too?

AN: Oh, yeah, seasonal because the stevedore wasn't good that time (when I first went to work at CPC). The longshoremen. Then they became a union, and he had a steady job. Before, he had to go down 5 o'clock in the morning to wait, and the foreman pick you up. [If] you don't take the foreman go to drink, you know, treating them, they don't hire you. They pick somebody else. They do the picking. Today, they're there as a steady job.

VL: Is that why you went back to work at CPC? Because his job was not steady?

AN: Yeah. His job wasn't steady. You don't work, you don't have money. Contract...

VL: So, you had to work?

AN: Yeah, I had to work. When he became a steady worker--when they formed that union, 1949--then every man get their number. You know what you entitled to, everything. You there with everything. Then, well, I told him since I been working so long, I don't want to stay home. (Chuckles) So, I went to work.

VL: Oh, so you continued?

AN: Yeah, continued to work. I say, "Oh, I have extra money." I look today, I said, "My, when I work, my husband--with all my money, my husband's money--he never asked me for my paycheck." Never asked me how much I owe, how much I get. I do what I want. But I'm not that foolish. His money--he has a bigger money--I throw it in the bank. That's how we got this home up here. I was going buy a home up Manoa.

VL: Did he give you his paycheck to handle?

AN: Gives me all his money. I just put 'em all in the bank.

VL: You would have two paychecks then? You put his in the bank...

AN: Yeah, two paychecks. And mine goes to pay the light bill, the water bill.

VL: He never had to do with the money?

AN: No. He never asked me my pay until he passed away. We married 38 years. Never did. Today, I see these men not giving their wives their money. They don't know how. I have a friend, too. She's married 10 years, she don't know how much her husband earns. He just put 'em. I tell, "How stupid you folks could be. And you passing out your paycheck."

She say, "Yeah." She calls me "Auntie." She's pretty. She's Portuguese-Japanese. Her father Portuguese.

VL: So, you think that your money that you earned when you were seasonal was for extras? After 1949, it was for extras?

AN: Yeah, extras.

VL: Like what kind of extras?

AN: What my kids want. Because they go private school. They want some nice things, clothes, then I got to go buy. Those days, I don't make charging account. I wen open a charge account when my girl got into high school, so I opened a charge account in 1939. Liberty House. Liberty House used to be hard for get. We cannot get because we pay cash, eh? See, they don't want cash. They want

you--way you pay--they want your credit. You could spend \$10,000, they don't care. That's why I say, "How stupid." I say, "Well, I cannot say because I don't credit. This is my first credit." But I got it. I'm still with them until today.

VL: If you hadn't worked at CPC, could your children have gone to private schools?

AN: Yeah, they could have gone because I were paying cheaper rent. My rent was only \$22 a month, two bedrooms, everything. Those days, electricity were very low. We only pay \$5, \$6 a month for electric light. Gas were \$2-something. Things were--in that day--were low. [AN bought a home in 1962.] The schools, the Catholic schools, were cheap those days.

VL: So, after 1949...

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

VL: We were saying that after 1949, you didn't really have to work because his job was secure, but you did because you wanted to.

AN: Yes.

VL: When you were seasonal worker, were you close friends with the other cannery workers? Like off-season, would you get together with them?

AN: You mean the one that works in Del Monte [CPC]? Ah, no....well, maybe only have about four or five friends that we really work together.

VL: This is when you were seasonal?

AN: Yeah, yeah. Uh huh.

VL: And then, would you see them off-season? Would you get together?

AN: No. You know why? They live far. Some live Nanakuli, some live Waimanalo. Only when we get into town, we see each other; then we start in talking; then we have lunch.

VL: While you're working?

AN: No. When the season is over. Intermittents, yeah. We get together. When I was intermittent we get together.

VL: But before that, not so much?

AN: No, not so much because everybody have their kids. They so young, you know? Cannot.

VL: When you were a seasonal, can you describe what a typical day would be like for you? Say from the time you get up in the morning? What you do all day?

AN: From the time I get up in the morning, wash clothes. Those days, I used to wash by hand in the bathtub--when I was living Maunakea Street--because I couldn't get a washing machine into the....because the bathroom is more like a V-shape. You know, the way they build the old apartments, those days. And just a small little kitchen too. You can't eat in the kitchen, you have to eat in the parlor because it's too small. I couldn't get a washing machine so I bin washing by hand...

VL: Every morning?

AN: Yeah, every day. I wash about 10 pants. Those days, the jeans were hard--you know, when you wash so hard with the brush--I scrubbed. You ought to see, the Chinese people couldn't think how I could work that hard. Hanging these clothes--two, three lines. The line used to go from one block to another block. You see, apartment here, apartment there. We had to hang.

VL: Between the apartments?

AN: Yeah, uh huh. It's a good thing in the back of the Roosevelt Theater, nobody could see. Only when people come in, come in there and say, "Oh, you been washing clothes. Look at all these clothes. I don't know how you do it." Every day I do that because my boy used to go to Cathedral School. They have a little---just like a suit. Navy blue pants with white shirt. Every day, he changed.

VL: But, let's see, summertime--when you were working--they didn't go to school, yeah?

AN: No. They didn't go to school. They home because I have my auntie comes down and watch them.

VL: So even when you were working during the summer, you did laundry every morning?

AN: Of course. Every morning, I did laundry. Every morning, I get up; I do laundry. I get all the clothes, I soak it all up, and wash it. Till I say, "Jesus, man, I'm going to get some way to get a washing machine." So, that's my first washing machine I bought--you know, those wringer? Hotpoint? And I got it into the room--into the bathroom. When we go and take a bath, we push it on the side--push it in the back--shut the door...

VL: You were at CPC?

AN: Yeah, I was CPC. I got this washing machine.

VL: About 19-what?

AN: Ah, 1952. I had that washing machine until I moved. Nineteen fifty-nine, it broke down.

VL: So then, after you did the laundry, what would you do?

AN: Iron. Starch and iron. I iron for good four or five hours. So much clothes--I'd starch all the clothes, home clothes and everything--and I iron. That's why the people say--people who knows me and sees me--they say, "Shee, maybe [because of] your hardworking days, that you look so good until today." They wouldn't believe I'm in my 60's. Yeah.

VL: You only had until 3 o'clock in the afternoon to do all this. Do you have to do anything to prepare to go to work?

AN: I prepare supper.

VL: For your family?

AN: Yeah, when they come home, they just warm it up.

VL: How about shopping?

AN: Shopping, I goes in the morning. I goes to the market because the market close. I just walk through the alleys to get into Kekaulike (Laughs) Street Market. You know that American Theater? You saw it? We used to go to there for show--15 cents. (Laughs) Well, I go right through there to get into the market. We come through there and pass---I don't know if you remember, Pauahi Street used to have a peanut factory---maybe your dad know. That's the only best peanut factory. That's where all kind--from the rich to the poor--buy peanuts over there. And really good. How long your dad been here?

VL: Not very long.

AN: Ah, he wouldn't know because that thing wen close up in 1950. No, in 1960's--1964, I think, or 1965 because the man died and the son didn't want to run peanut. I say, "Oh, for Chinese, you lazy Chinese. I think you get Hawaiian blood in you."

(Laughter)

AN: He said, "Too much work. Too much humbug."

VL: So your days were pretty busy, then, before you went to work.

AN: Yeah, busy. Yeah. Before I go to work, I always work hard, then I go to work. I always do things home. I never fool around. I

never sit down like this, where I relaxing today. It's always something to do, something to do. You have to finish it up, get everything, then go to work. Come home, you don't have to worry. In the morning, the kids are all prepared--their uniforms all ready and everything, see?

VL: How about when you came home from work at 11 o'clock at night?

AN: At night? I relax myself. I take a bath. We have supper [at the cannery] about 7 o'clock. When I come home, I just have a cup of tea. I don't drink coffee because I cannot sleep. So I don't drink coffee. I rather have tea than the coffee. Then I relax. I read newspaper. The children all sleeping. My husband, he plays pool. After he gets [home] from stevedore, he goes and play pool--he's a good pool shooter.

VL: So then, would he be home when you got home, or he's out?

AN: No, he's not home. My brother is home. When my brother comes home, he [husband] goes to the poolroom. It's right around the corner. You see, what a life, eh? My boy, he don't have much remembrance. Only my girl--my big girl--the one. I told them, "You know, these kind of things, you folks have---because time come on, you folks are going be the one that going to live."

That's why, she say, "Ma, shee, I don't know how you could remember all these things."

I said, "Because I'm interested in these kind of things." I told them, "Shee, I wish I get brains like you folks." I would write stories about the olden days.

VL: When you were seasonal, did you want to become intermittent? Did you want to work more?

AN: Yeah, I wanted to work more.

VL: But they don't have openings? How come you couldn't...

AN: Because they don't have openings because just so much tables run every time. Afterwards the tables got to get bigger---there's more pineapple, then they hired more intermittents. That's how I got in [to be an intermittent]. They were getting lot of orders, too.

VL: When you became intermittent, how did that change your household--how you kept your household--because now you're working more?

AN: My daughter is big, that's why. She was a teen-ager. She were doing all the job. That's after I moved--1952--I moved to Kaumakapili Lane. That time [approximately 1958], my daughter was 14 years old and she was attending Sacred Hearts Convent. She comes home, and she take care what's, you know....

VL: Did she cook?

AN: No, she can't cook that time. I do the cooking when I come home. But she cleans the house, she runs the washer, she hangs all the clothes out. My son take care the kitchen--wash all the dishes--and clean the yard. My son was going to Cathedral that time. That's when he was in his last year at Cathedral--sixth grade. Cathedral only had six grades in those years.

VL: So he did the dishes and the....

AN: Yeah, he did the dishes and the kitchen. He takes care that--everything--and then, he cleans the yard. My daughter takes all the washing and cleans up the house--the bedroom, everything. I don't have to tell them nothing. When I come home, the house is spic-and-span. Everything.

VL: Then you worked daytime that time [after becoming an intermittent]?

AN: Yeah, then I went on the day shift. They know how to take care themselves. In the morning, I get up early. Before I leave--6:30--I get them up, and they get going. Breakfast's all ready. You know, you have these corn flakes, like that. If they want mush, I make the mush, see, and then I get up--it's warm. Just put the milk because the mush is still hot--if they want. Oh, really good children until today. My son, he don't have to get married. He know how to do everything.

VL: I was thinking, he'd clean the kitchen. That's usually the girl's work, yeah?

AN: Yeah, yeah. No, they had to share. Not that that's girl's work. All today, the kids have to share--the boys--because in case they get married and the wife gets sick, who's going to do the job? You know, you don't have no children. They know how to work. They know how to take care their house. This is the thing where the people should know about these kind of things today.

VL: How about your husband? Did he help in the household chores?

AN: He don't do nothing. Only thing he does, he'd clean the yard, that's all he does over here. He'd just clean yard. Maybe he'd just go in, he wash the dishes, too. You know, in case the kids, well, he'd do the dishes. But he won't clean--no cleaning house. Here, fixing the bed, nothing. He won't do it. He said no, that's not his job. He told me, "You want me to work [i.e., do housework]? Well, you better stay home." So I no bother. So, I do it myself.

VL: Oh, otherwise, you'd have to stay home. (Laughs)

AN: Yeah. He tell me stay home. He say, "You no worry, okay, you stay home. Clean up the house. You think you too tired, well, you stay

home [from work] because I didn't tell you go to work." So I can't say nothing, see? But when I had the girls, don't have to worry--when I had the children. They do all their share. Because my other girl--my big girl--she was boarding at St. Francis. She boards because it's too far. So my two brothers take care of my oldest girl. They pay the board. Pays \$50 a month--only \$500 for board. Today, I hear, almost \$2,000.

VL: They paid for her schooling?

AN: They pay. Because she was the oldest, they were paying. That's the one works for the welfare department on the books. She's very nice.

VL: Going back to CPC, what kind of facilities did CPC have for the workers? Like, I think you mentioned a locker room.

AN: The locker room were old-fashioned. Everything is old-fashioned.

VL: What do you mean, "old-fashioned?"

AN: The locker, they have a key. You just open it. They not like Hawaiian Pine--you know, you have to know your number? What they call that?

VL: Combination?

AN: Combination. No. (Laughs)

VL: How about bathrooms?

AN: Bathroom, was nice. Shower. They have, I think, about 12 showers, but I don't bathe in there. I can't be bothered bathing in there. I go home and take a bath. It's good for the people who live down the country. They like to bathe. They have country [employees] too, you know. Sometimes, I think these people crazy. Why do you come to work when you living way down the country? They have to catch a---early in the morning. They leave home at 4:30. They in the cannery about 5:30, wait for how many hours. Even I tell them, "Why you folks coming?" Even for working three, four hours a day, you know, intermittents. "That's for the birds," I told them. I don't know. I still can't understand them.

Even my husband was telling me, "I think they all crazy. They only come working for three, four hours." Sometimes we only work two, three hours for intermittent. Well, for me, I don't care. I walk home; I walk to work; I walk home. So, I don't spend nothing.

VL: How about CPC's cafeteria?

AN: Regular cafeteria. You know, all the tables--all long tables--chairs. You stand and you pick up your food--the foods are all

there--dessert, and only the main food, they do it for you. See, it's hot, eh? But like the dessert, the salad, you pick what you want and put it in your tray. Then you go to the cashier and she see how much this costs.

VL: Would you say the facilities were pretty good at CPC?

AN: Yeah, pretty good. Pretty good, CPC. Clean, everything is clean. You know, nothing, eh?

VL: Did they have anything for the workers, like a library, or something?

AN: No. No, there's nothing there for you to read--book--no. They don't have nothing, those kind of things.

VL: A club you could join, or sports?

AN: Oh, they have, yeah. They have, but not for the girls. I think only the boy---only the regular workers. You know, the regular--the one who works there every day, Saturday--they the one that joins the club. You know, baseball...

VL: Girls like you folks didn't have any teams?

AN: No, no. We didn't have no team. Nothing. Until today. I don't see any. Even the Hawaiian Pine didn't have any, too. Only the boys. But they [CPC] have bowling team. Up to you to bowl. You go make a team and bowl. But no, nobody. Everybody have no time for bowling because they get all the kids. They tired, they go home, and you know? Those days.

VL: Or clubs?

AN: No clubs. We don't have no clubs.

VL: How about, say, at the end of the season, did the company sponsor a picnic or anything?

AN: Yes, we have a picnic. End of the season, everybody pau, we have a picnic--most times, it goes for the Labor Day--we have it down at Ewa. That place that Campbell owns. CPC lease it out. It's a beautiful place. Down Ewa Beach.

VL: Would they give all the food?

AN: Yeah, they bring all the food. We'd just go and pack our bag and our bathing suit, that's all. We go. The food is there with everybody. If they want to have drink, they bring their own drink. But for food, it's there. Good, everything--the food is real delicious.

VL: Would everybody go?

AN: Of course. Everybody go. We have to go down to the company. Everybody go in a big bus. They have about four buses.

VL: How about other times of the year, like Christmas or Thanksgiving?

AN: Nothing. They no have nothing.

VL: Just that once-a-year...

AN: Yeah, just a once-a-year, the picnic, that's all.

VL: Or, dances?

AN: No. Shee, you know, that's funny. This time. I don't know why they never had no dances--nothing. Before--for CPC, nothing--but Libby, they had. They had the Harvester Dance. They have at the Armory. They choose the queen. But now, I told somebody who worked Libby long time, "You folks still have that?"

He said, "No. Since they have the union, everything break off." Yeah, since they joined the union, no more nothing.

VL: Seems like CPC, maybe, had little bit fewer events like that than, say, Hawaiian Pine.

AN: Yeah, yeah. Hawaiian Pine the one, they have all kind things.

VL: Did you ever think you would want to switch back to Hawaiian Pine because...

AN: No, I didn't care to go Hawaiian Pine. I really liked my Del Monte [CPC]. Hawaiian Pine is too strict. Del Monte, I really like my Del Monte. I no care what anybody say. Del Monte is really good cannery---you know why? The foreladies are nice. The head forelady is nice, and all the bosses are nice. Hawaiian Pine is too much. Everything too fast. The head foreladies are sassy. That's why I like my Del Monte. I'm glad that I had worked for them.

My brother [Kelly Miguel] worked for Hawaiian Pine. He just retired. Physical disability about four years now, with 34 years at Hawaiian Pine. See, he made 30 years and they gave him a wrist watch. Cost \$250. He said, "Damn stupid! That people, with all that money they make, and what the hell they giving this damn thing." (Laughs) He said, "You know, give dinner for us, give lei, meet...." He didn't go.

He said, "Oh, the hell with this damn boss. I ain't going to shake his hand." He's a strong union man, my brother. He said, "Why should I go there and shake their hand? They crazy. If they like, they come to me and shake my hand." They came to him, too. They were looking for him. Well, he was working.

"Eh, Kelly, eh, Miguel, the president of Hawaiian Pine wants you over there."

He said, "Where?" So, he drive; he got off from his high-lift. He went over there and he went shake his hand. He wouldn't go inside. "Oh," he said, "they want to shake my hand, they come and see me. I ain't shaking their hand."

VL: When your brother worked at Hawaiian Pine, you worked CPC. But it was okay working at Hawaiian Pine for your brother?

AN: Yeah. You see, when my brother worked Hawaiian Pine, was wartime. He went there in 1944. He quit the Pearl Harbor, and everybody thought he's crazy. After, they laid off, and he said he know he was the first one going lay off because he don't go to work. The MP's [military police] have to go look for him, wartime. You know, before, if you don't work, when war, the MP's come to your house with a nurse. So, he left [Pearl Harbor]--1944, he quit--he went work Hawaiian Pine. That's how he got his job--high-lift. He's a high-lift operator. When they form up the union, he went into the union.

VL: You didn't want to work there with your brother?

AN: No, I didn't want to work there with him. My cousins all worked there, too. They told me, "Why don't you?"

I said, "No, no. I work for my Del Monte." I like Del Monte. I don't want to go over there and work.

VL: Speaking of union, when did you first hear about ILWU [International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union]?

AN: Union? Nineteen thirty-seven, 1936. The late year.

VL: How did you hear about it?

AN: Mr. Jack Kawano. Did you hear about him? Jack Kawano?

VL: Yeah. How did you hear him?

AN: My husband were working longshoreman at that time. They were just forming up for be a union. The name still wasn't ILWU, was just Honolulu Longshoremen, that's all was. They were just coming up. I don't know if you remember---maybe your father knows this attorney. He was a director for the---then, he became an attorney. Berman--Edward Berman. That was the first---with the union coming in trying to, you know.

VL: So, you first heard through your husband, then, because he was a longshoreman?

AN: Yeah. Uh huh. A longshoreman. Those days, they used to get only 60 cents an hour for longshoremen. And if you worked--you worked now--you work four hours, that's all. Sometimes, you don't pick up. They won't pick you up--the foremen. Even no matter how early you go, if the foreman don't like you, he won't pick you up. He pick somebody else. What you can do? You can't do nothing. Then, they tried forming because the company was giving bad time to the longshoremen. So, Jack Kawano is the first. That's the one. That's the man supposed to deserve all the rights. They called him Communist. He wasn't a Communist at all. Anything you want to do something for the right of the working people, they call you a Communist.

VL: Did you feel that way, way back in 1937? What did you think of the union at that time?

AN: Me, I think, by right, by time, we should get a better pay because all these Big Five down here was getting all the money, getting rich, and everything. You know, before in the [Honolulu] Star-Bulletin---you know the paper? One whole society page, all for their daughters, all having tea. And that money is supposed to be for the working people--half of that money. While they enjoying all the luxury, the working people are working hard. I think, yeah. I believe. I like the union. I no care what anybody tell me because I went through that.

VL: Even back in 1937, you felt this way?

AN: Yes. Yeah. Even I stand on a picket line. Yeah, went down the boats.

VL: For your husband?

AN: The union one. Yes. And I'm so proud that this thing came right straight through. They got everything. Don't have to worry. Your money is there. Every week you work. You have to work seven days a week, work seven days a week. Me, I glad. Like for Jack Hall to get off, no. I going tell you a story about Jack Hall. It's pitiful. This man, Mr. Kawano, took care of Jack Hall. [Kawano] used to live up here--Pauoa. His mother had a place, and that's where we make laulau. We kill a pig to go out to have little money for the longshoremen--for the people. Mr. Jack Hall, see, he had no house. He was just a bum. That's what he was. Who took care of him? Mr. Jack Kawano. Because I see it. He sleeps there, he's so dirty. He was a merchant marine.

VL: Hall?

AN: Yeah. Jack Hall. Me, I like to meet that man--Mr. Kawano. But I don't know what happened. He went with Mr. [William] Kamaka, you know? They went against the union. I don't know. There's a long story to that. "Shee," I thought, "How come he gave up and went

with the government, too?"

This Jack Hall, they used to have these kind books--you read about Russia. You know, what they doing. But to me, I say, "What the hell's wrong is this? There's nothing wrong." But they claim because they Communists. I just go inside there and see. They want my husband. My husband said he get no time for go in school to read what's going on in Russia. Because he plays pool. He said he got to make money. He can't make money from the stevedore. He got to make money from the pool.

VL: This is before the union came?

AN: Before the union came because was going, was going, was going [i.e., building up]. Before that, my husband was a merchant marine. See, they had a big strike--the seamen's strike. Maybe your dad know about that; 1934. Well, he was a seaman. Afterwards, when he met me, then he jump off to work longshoreman. He didn't want to go back on the boat to work.

When they used to go in there [the school for studying about Russia], I was thinking, "What's this?" Then, the FBI [Federal Bureau of Investigation] coming in. You know, the FBI coming in, look. They came even to our house. I said, "I don't know. I didn't go. I don't know---what's that?" And sure, myself, I didn't know what the hell it is. But yet, they had a school.

They [the FBI] say, "Well, did you go in there?"

I said, "I don't know. I saw books, but I don't---what is it? I mean, nothing's wrong with it."

VL: Did you go to classes to learn?

AN: No. I didn't go. I just went upstairs just to see. But I don't go all the time. I say, "Oh, this kind of things, I don't want. I don't want to have nothing to do with this kind of thing." You know, it's good because I have no more time to go into there, but I will help. They need my help, I go in. But to go every time, they have to go school every night, eh? I say, "I have no more time. I have my kids." But I like the union. To me, I don't see anything wrong until today. You know Aiko Reinecke? All us go, but there was nothing to...

VL: Where were you going?

AN: To the school. This kind of school they were holding.

VL: Where was it?

AN: In the back of my place, upstairs. Maunakea Street. My friend's house, Mr. (Samson) Chang. I live downstairs, he lives upstairs.

(Jack Kawano was living with Mr. Chang at this time; Kawano temporarily held the classes there.) Then, was getting bigger and bigger. That's when the Reineckes came in. They call me. They laugh.

I said, "No. I have no time because I have my kids. I got to think of my kids."

And my husband said, "Oh, no." He don't want. He going play pool. He can't be bothered. His brains not there for school.

They told him, "Well, you are the oldest longshoreman, you should come."

"No, no. You folks take over. I'll just come in and help."

VL: So, when you joined the cannery--CPC, seasonal--you could not be a union member though, huh?

AN: No, no. We never had a union that time. The union just came in strong in the late 1950-something. I think 1954, 1955. They had union come up and broke---they never had much member, you see.

VL: That big strike was in 1947.

AN: Yeah, 1947, but they didn't strike long.

VL: So, you were seasonal anyway. You couldn't join.

AN: Yeah, I couldn't join because I was seasonal. So only intermittents could join with the regulars.

VL: So, you didn't have much to do with the union while you were seasonal?

AN: No, no. But you know when they went on strike, eh? I didn't go to work. We didn't go to work, you know.

VL: What year was that?

(Telephone rings. Taping stops, then resumes.)

VL: Do you remember what year this strike was? The big one was in 1947 [5-1/2 day industry-wide strike, July 11-16].

AN: Nineteen forty-seven, yeah. I think that's the year, but they didn't go. We didn't go. They had postponed it. I don't know what wen happen. They had a little talk, I think. Because I stayed home.

VL: This was very soon after you started working?

AN: Yeah. Then--when I would get intermittent--then they had [thought about striking], but never go. I was in there--I joined the union--

but we never had no strike until I left there. Then, they had. After, in 1966 or 1967. Then they had strike. Then they walked off. I think they stayed out for three days, then they went back again.

VL: So, while you were an intermittent, you never participated in any walkouts or strikes?

AN: No, no. No walkout or strike. Always having meeting. They say they going on strike, never do. Until after I got out. Then they went. They say they went for one day only. Then they were called. They told 'em to come back work the next morning, and that they had something settled.

VL: So even though you liked Del Monte as an employer, as a company, you sound like you were strong union. And yet you still liked the company. How did you work that out--that difference? You liked both of them?

AN: Well, I thought I'd like to see a better way and better working condition. Like somebody going to come up with their job, when they supposed to get it first---what they call this? When you work there longer and some...

VL: Seniority?

AN: Yeah, seniority. And somebody just come in and then get a job because, you know? That's the thing. It was kind of pretty bad for them when people had put so much years in the, you know. That's the thing they were getting out. All canneries was like that. Hawaiian Pine was the same thing, too. Now, seniority get the first choice. Like if this person going to another department, well, the next one wants that job, they come in to go in there. If they can think they could do it, they come in. But, see, not somebody that just came in, worked for about two, three years, and to get the job. Well, this is the trouble of today, too. Right now, it is, too. There's lot of people.

I had a cousin that works in Hawaiian Electric. He works there about 34 years, and the job that he was supposed to get, they went and hired another white man and put it in there. See, because he (cousin) knows the job. So, he's so stupid, he left the job. You know why? He didn't join the union. He didn't like union. "That was what you get," I told him. And he left the job for all his service in there.

VL: At the cannery, you think the union changed this practice?

AN: Yeah. It did change the practice. It did. I liked union. I don't know why. You know why I like union? Because I know all these kind of things when we was a territory. Yet, they were good. Some of the Big Five---I don't know. I think this Waterhouse

family, they not Big Five. Because they own their own living from their parents. You know what I mean? They are the one that helped put me through school, and my sister, too. My sister went Kamehameha, I went Mid-Pacific. They were all missionary family. They were rich. The son was president of the First Hawaiian Bank. The other son was president of Alexander and Baldwin. There were all big, but they were real nice. We used to go this Sunday school, and the mother was the founder of this little Sunday school. It still is today.

VL: Did you find any conflict between liking the company and the liking the union?

AN: Oh, yeah. I like the union. Because I went through that union and that was the same union that got hold of the cannery--ILWU.

VL: But I mean, you liked Del Monte, too--the company. So isn't that a contradiction? That you are for the union, and yet, you liked the company, too.

AN: Well, no. I like the company for working, better than the other---like Hawaiian Pine. I like that company because they not too strict in anything. That's what I mean, I like the working. They not strict, like make you--everything--fast, fast, fast. No, I like that, but still I like the union because I like better money, and better seniority, and better things.

Like we have---when you sick, you get paid for staying home, you know, all those things. When the union came in. Before, no. You sick, you get nothing. When you joined that union, you sick, you get paid for stay home. You get all that privileges. Before, no. You sick, you don't get nothing. Same thing with stevedore. You sick, you get nothing. Until they joined the union--they got everything. That's the thing I like in the union. There's lot of things the union had, you know. But today, I don't know, all the union all crook, but not the ILWU. That's why I praise that man, Mr. Bridges--Harry Bridges.

VL: You never did see the union as hurting the company?

AN: No. Me? I don't see. But sometimes, I get mad with the union, too, because they getting lot of money. I think the people are satisfied with their wages. I think, why they asking for more money? They should ask for more benefits--that's what they should ask for. Like for your family, benefits come up. Never mind about the wages, because shee, the wages, ILWU---I'm satisfied. [If] my husband was still there, I say I satisfied with that \$9 an hour. That's what they get, you know? I satisfied, but what they should do now---even I was telling this other guy. They say, well, that's what they going to do now. They going to put for pension higher, and more hospitals, all those kind of things--benefit for the family. No mind about the wages. Wages, enough there already.

That's what I think, today. One guy said, "You're right." No, why ask?

Like these contractors, they having big money already. Why they asking for more? They should ask for seniority, that's what they should ask for. If they get about \$10, \$12 one hour, shee, they not satisfied---what they going to do with all that money? Even if you ask more money, you not coming home with that pay money. The taxes are taking it. Just like the more money you ask, the more for the government. You think so? Is that right? There's lot of people working good money. When they come home, the pay not there. So much things are taken out. I say, "Why ask for more? You're not satisfied with what you get now."

And they laugh. Like now, you know, this [Arthur] Rutledge. They got to get him out. I told my lady friend. She works at Royal Hawaiian [Hotel]. She works there 19 years. I told 'em, "You know, you folks should get him out." I told her, "What kind of union you folks get that they don't have Board of Trustees? He's the president, he draws out the money." I say, "What kind of union is that?" You know, our union? They always condemn our union, "ILWU, Communist, Communist." And they are the honest union until today. You never see them with the government. They never cheat the government. Until our president, Harry Bridges, retired. And he retired good. You never see the ILWU cheating everybody.

I say every month, we go down to the [ILWU] hall. I go with my husband to listen. They tell where the money--so-and-so money--went. How much they earn, and what and what this. ILWU, it's all for the men, all for the union. When they want to give party, free. They only pay the janitors--you know, as long as you are a member.

VL: I'm going to---this is almost over.

END OF INTERVIEW

**WOMEN WORKERS
in Hawaii's
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Volume I

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University of Hawaii, Manoa**

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